OZINE ACADEMY MANGA

Otaku zine
ANIME MAGAZINE

NO. 19

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•*Da Capo II*

Jmusic Review:
Spitz

FEATURES
- Black Cat
- Code Geass
- Girls High
- Ikkitousen Dragon Destiny
- Saiunkoku Monogatari

OZINE FEATURE
Noisy Characters

SNEAK PEEK
Kaiji

ANIMAIN
Digimon Savers
Harukanaru Toki No Naka De

MANGA REVIEW
Suki

DA CAPO
FROM THE BEGINNING

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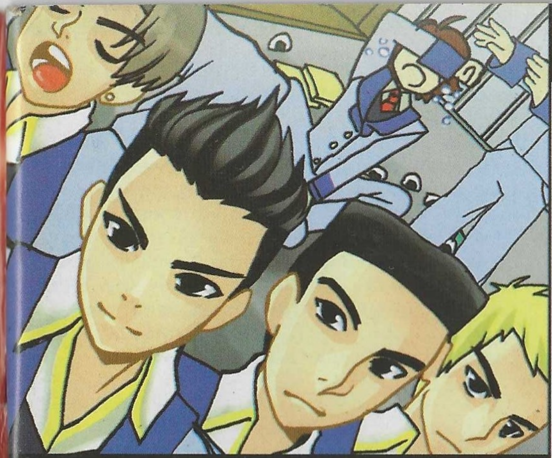

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Anime Anime Anime... We love Anime!

We love Otakuzine... We love the people behind Otakuzine... These are just some of the touching pieces that we get on our daily fan mail. To be honest, reading your letters make us feel great and happy to do what we love to do and bring you more anime. I receive lots of email everyday to the point that my email program hangs for a bit because of fan mail overload, but hey, what the heck I'm not complaining. Thanks a lot guys, really.

And for those who are writing us via snail mail, don't worry because we are getting all your mails and we will make sure to answer all of them.

I'm not going to make this long, I'm pretty sure you guys can't wait to flip this page and read what we have in store for you.

Read on and see lots of kawaii features from Da Capo to Noisy Anime Characters from Hodge Podge!

Dennis Uy
General Manager

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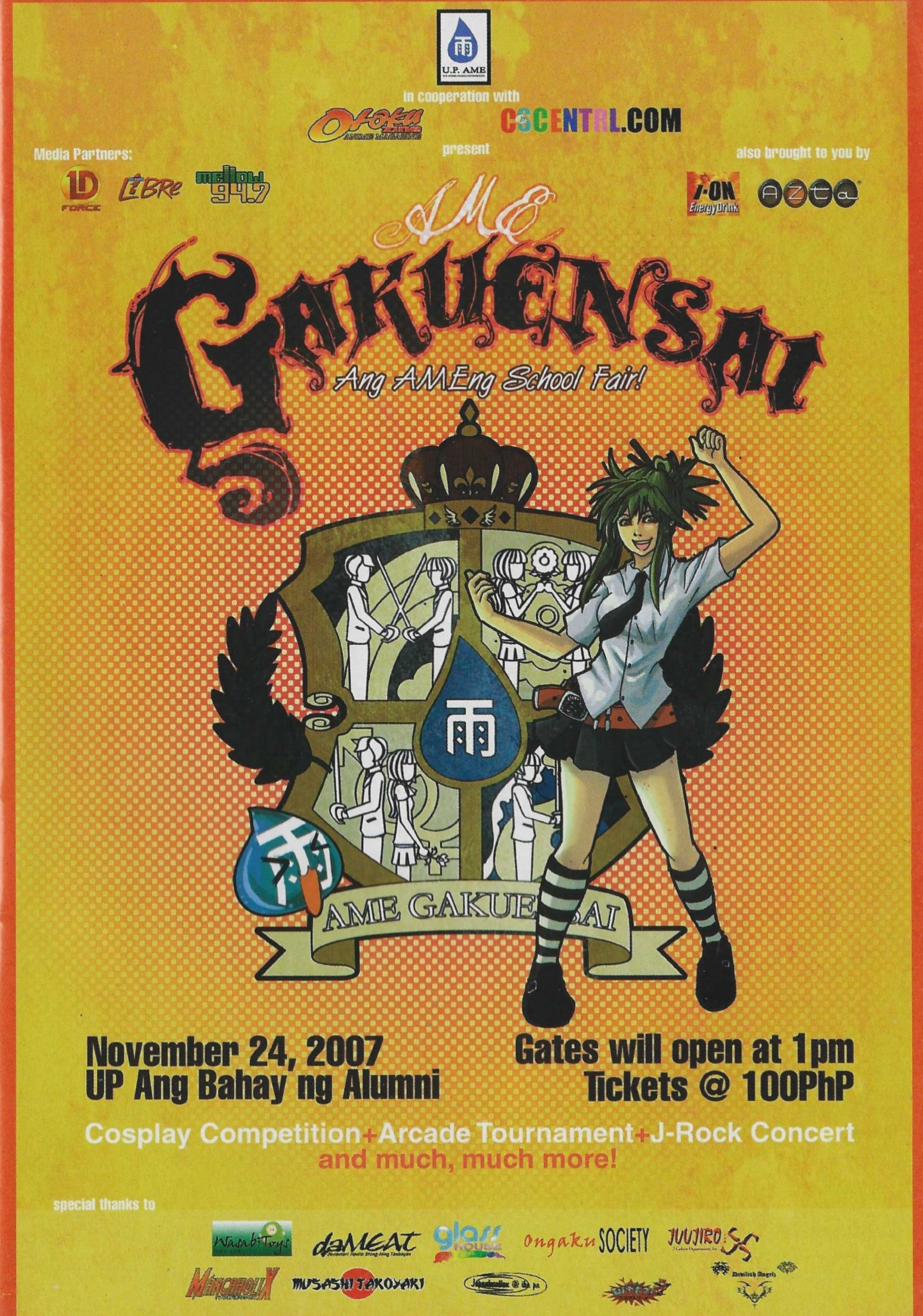

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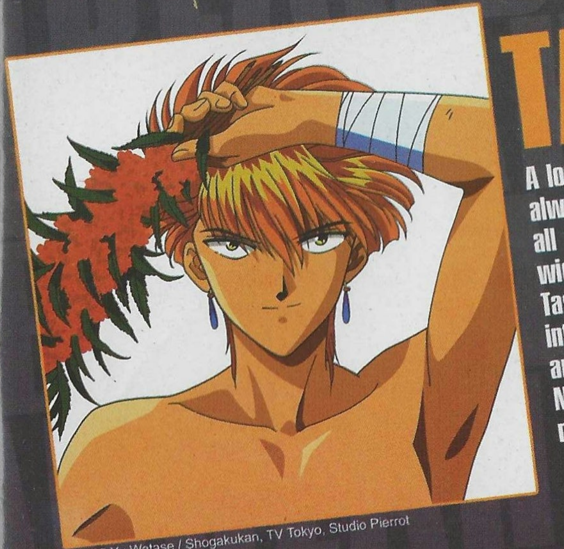
By Reiascotl

On our last issue, we featured characters with silent personalities, this time the spotlight shines on the noisy, hyperactive, and happy-go-lucky characters that give color to any series that feature several personas.



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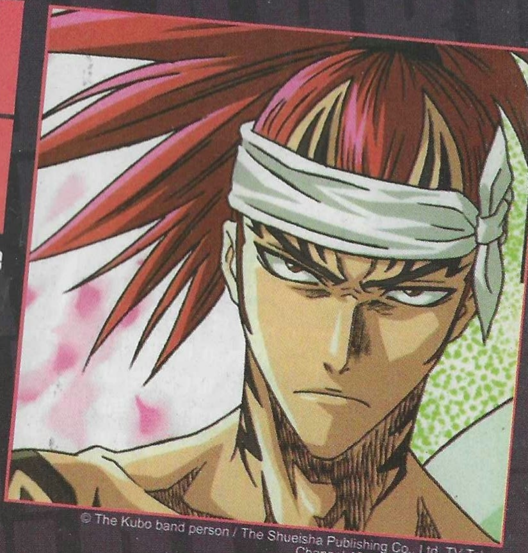
TASUKI

A loud mouth suzaku star warrior, Tasuki is always hot-tempered and is the funniest of all the star warriors. He is a bandit leader wielding a metal fan that spews out flames. Tasuki's bad-boy attitude always gets him into trouble. His loud-mouthed nature annoys his fellow warriors especially Nuriko and Tamahome from which he receives a couple of beating.

RENJI ABARAI



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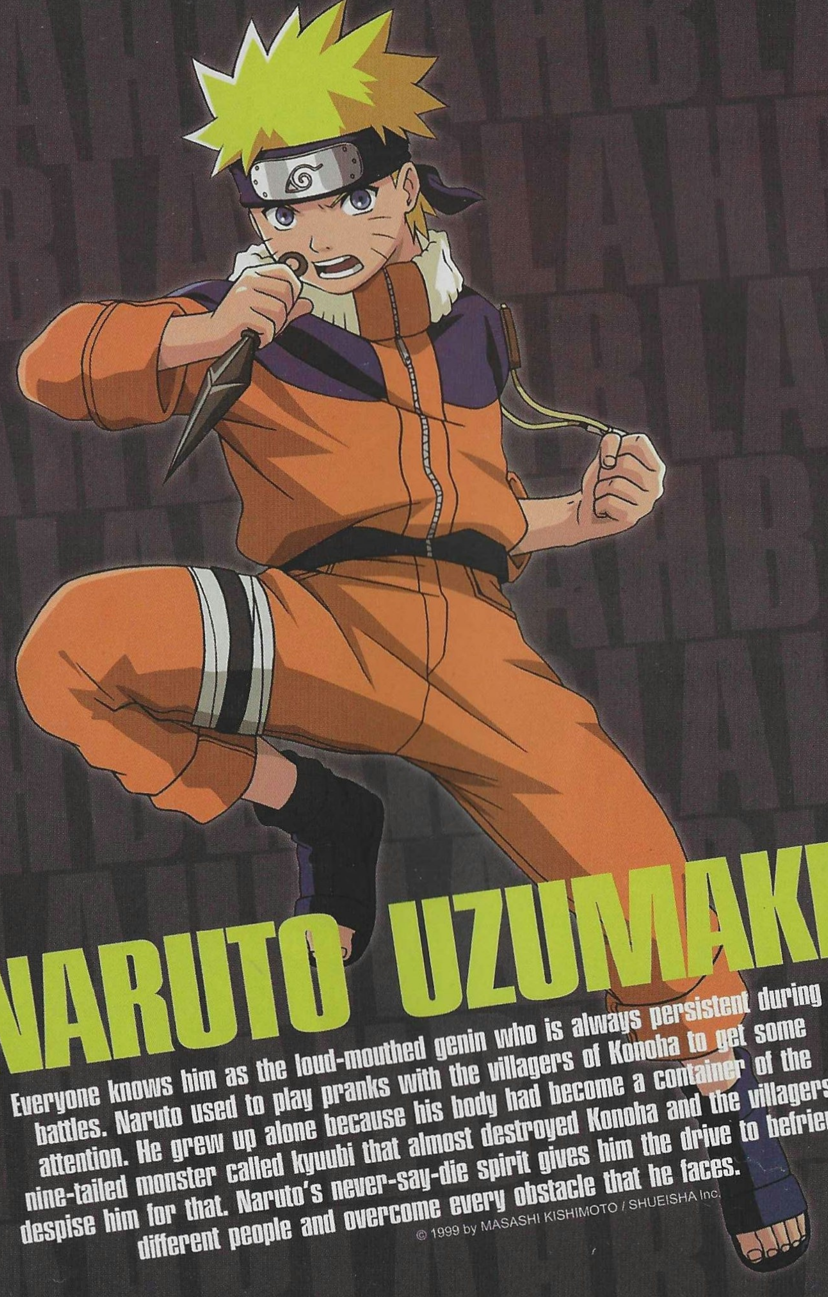
He is the lieutenant of the 6th division of the Gotei 13. Renji is always arguing with Ichigo. There was once a time when Renji, after he got his artificial body, went to Ichigo's school only to start yelling at him and Ichigo tells everyone that Renji is his cousin. His relationship with Ichigo can be considered a love-hate relationship and they can be seen helping each other sometimes.



NARUTO UZUMAKI

Everyone knows him as the loud-mouthed genin who is always persistent during battles. Naruto used to play pranks with the villagers of Konoha to get some attention. He grew up alone because his body had become a container of the nine-tailed monster called kyuubi that almost destroyed Konoha and the villagers despise him for that. Naruto's never-say-die spirit gives him the drive to befriend different people and overcome every obstacle that he faces.

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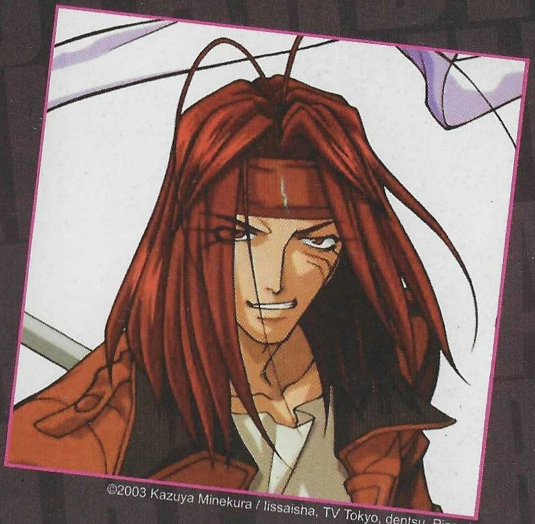
SHA GOJYO

He is always arguing with Goku especially when it comes to food. He and Goku annoy Sanzo when they fight and Sanzo always ends up firing his gun to shut their mouth. A ladies man, Gojyo is always seen hounding on women in every town they go to. When battling against hordes of demons, Gojyo mocks them before killing them with his shakujo.



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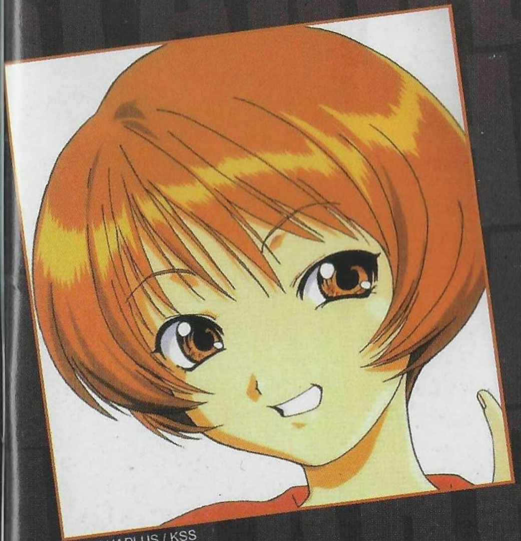

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SHIHO NAGAOKA

To Heart's resident gossip queen, Shiho Nagaoka is always armed with gossips and is often seen spreading some with her classmates. She calls her gossips as "Shiho's news" before she begin to tell a gossip. She and Hiroyuki frequently have arguments and Hiroyuki always says that her "news" is 90% false. Shiho is Akari's best friend and they both love to go to karaoke outings.

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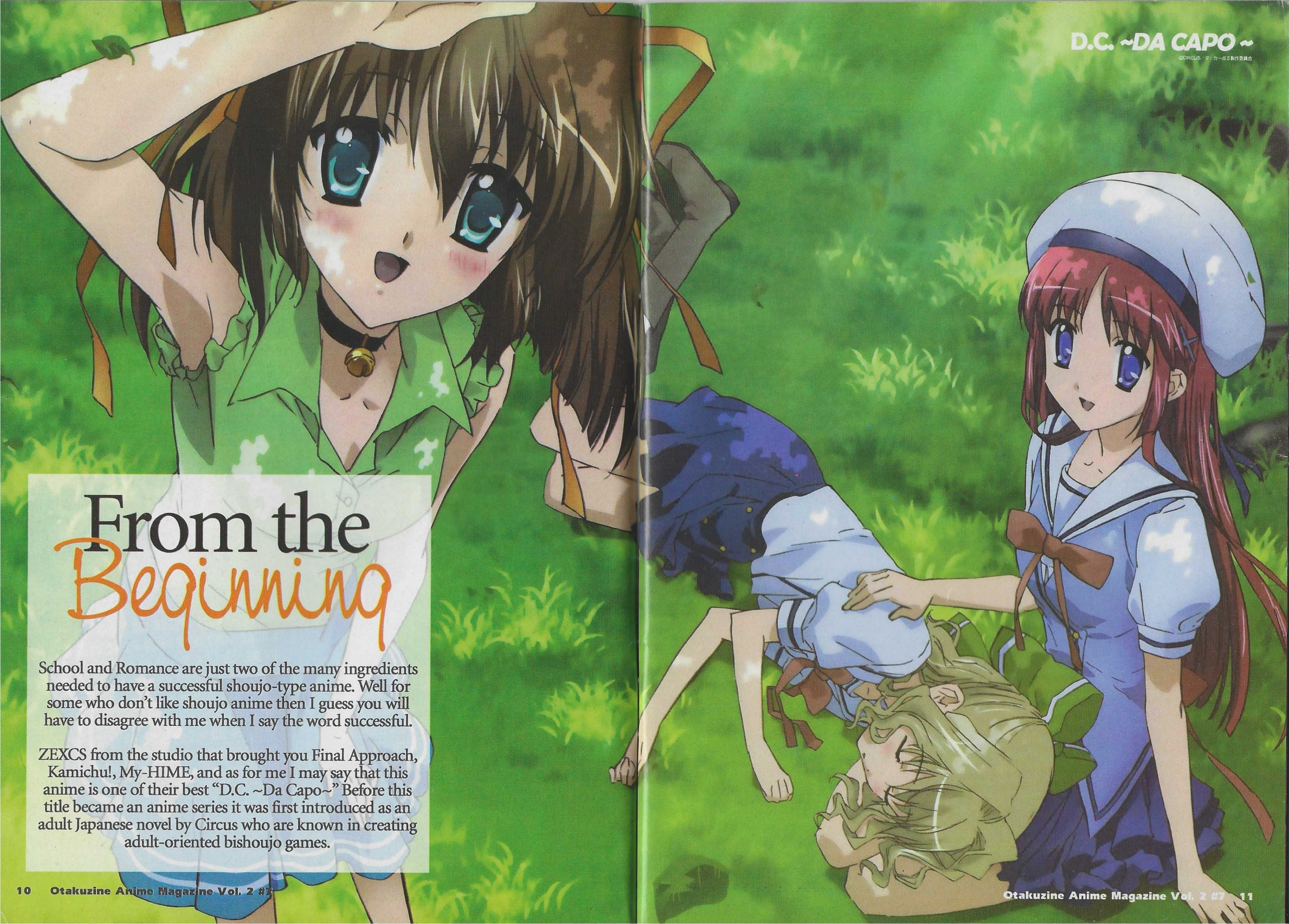
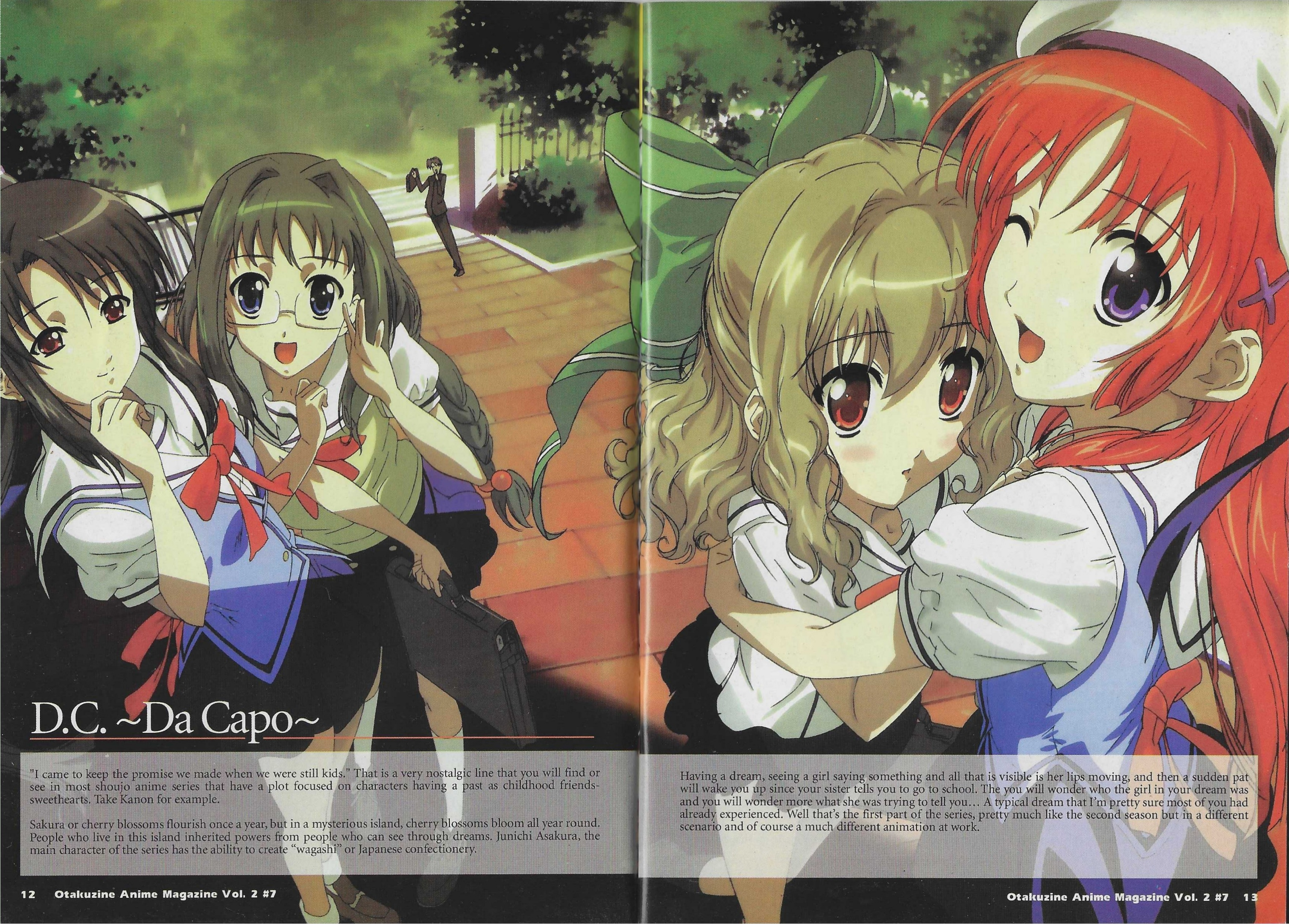


From the Beginning

School and Romance are just two of the many ingredients needed to have a successful shoujo-type anime. Well for some who don't like shoujo anime then I guess you will have to disagree with me when I say the word successful.

ZEXCS from the studio that brought you Final Approach, Kamichu!, My-HIME, and as for me I may say that this anime is one of their best "D.C. ~Da Capo~" Before this title became an anime series it was first introduced as an adult Japanese novel by Circus who are known in creating adult-oriented bishoujo games.



D.C. ~Da Capo~

"I came to keep the promise we made when we were still kids." That is a very nostalgic line that you will find or see in most shoujo anime series that have a plot focused on characters having a past as childhood friends-sweethearts. Take Kanon for example.

Sakura or cherry blossoms flourish once a year, but in a mysterious island, cherry blossoms bloom all year round. People who live in this island inherited powers from people who can see through dreams. Junichi Asakura, the main character of the series has the ability to create "wagashi" or Japanese confectionery.

Having a dream, seeing a girl saying something and all that is visible is her lips moving, and then a sudden pat will wake you up since your sister tells you to go to school. The you will wonder who the girl in your dream was and you will wonder more what she was trying to tell you… A typical dream that I'm pretty sure most of you had already experienced. Well that's the first part of the series, pretty much like the second season but in a different scenario and of course a much different animation at work.

D.C. ~Second Season~

The second season takes place two years after the first season took place. Junichi Asakura is in college and met Aisia. I know I can't give much information about this section to avoid me giving you spoilers so I guess I'll be leaving this section and will ask you readers to watch this series.

D.C. II ~Da Capo II~

Let's focus a bit on the latest season of the series. How do I start…? The first episode was a bit mushy or can be described as redundant with other scenes similar to it. I'm not here to judge the anime since the series is not yet over, judging from the first few episodes that I have watched, it seemed that the scene made on that particular episode was already used in some other anime series.

Welcome to the world of Yoshiyuki Sakurai, the main protagonist of the series. She lives in a house together with Otome Asakura and her sister, Yume Asakura. The first episode is like a guy having a dream wherein in his dream he sees a girl and when he wakes up, he doesn't remember who she was. It is pretty much the same as the first season that was released last 2003. Animation-wise, compared to the first season, I was impressed with what they did on the characters and the other details of the series. The first opening and closing billboard (OBB & CBB) with the first opening and ending theme was also superb, taken from the voices of Yozuca and Rino. Yozuca, who did the opening theme for Girls Bravo 2nd Season and opening theme of Ultimate Girls.

My say would be, if you are an anime fan looking for genres like Comedy, School Life, and Love-Romance then I would really suggest this anime for various reasons a shoujo-anime fan would know.

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CHARGING ONES' SOUL

After the final airing of Digimon Frontier last 2003, nobody heard of any new Digimon series. Rumor plagues some of the fans about the death of their favorite Digi-series. Surprisingly enough, a new Digimon series hits the television screen once more with more Digi-goodness!

Masaru Daimon is a 14-year old high school brawler who likes to fight in order to show his strength. An escapee Digimon from D.A.T.S. (Digital Accident Tactics Squad), Agumon, sparks tension between him and Masaru leading to a long fight. In the end after receiving blows from one another, Agumon swore to become Masaru's partner for his power. This leads Masaru to join D.A.T.S. in order to defend and detain wild Digimon from causing havoc in the human world.

Masaru is joined by two other colleagues from the organization namely Tohma Norstein and Yoshino Fujieda with their respective Digimon partners, Gaomon and Raramon(Lalamon). Together, they go back and forth to the Digimon World to unearth the mysteries and conspiracies lurking behind D.A.T.S. and every Digimon that goes with it.

Digimon Savers is the 5th series ever to come out of the Digimon titles airing last June 2006. This new Digimon series changed considerably compared to the last four series. First, Digimon Savers' protagonists were not grade school kids but teenagers. Second, the plot twists were more mature shifting from a foreseeable villain to a surprisingly unexpected one though the usual cliché of Digi-heroes fighting a big bad Digimon still remained. Third, they brought back actual Digimons evolving rather than Digi-destined children transforming into one and the series incorporated a continuous sequence of Digivolution from rookie to champion up to their perfect and ultimate levels. Lastly, the characters' artworks were done by Sayo Aoi shifting the familiar art of Akiyoshi Hongo for the first four seasons to a different concept giving it an aura of maturity but at the same time complimented the children's genre.

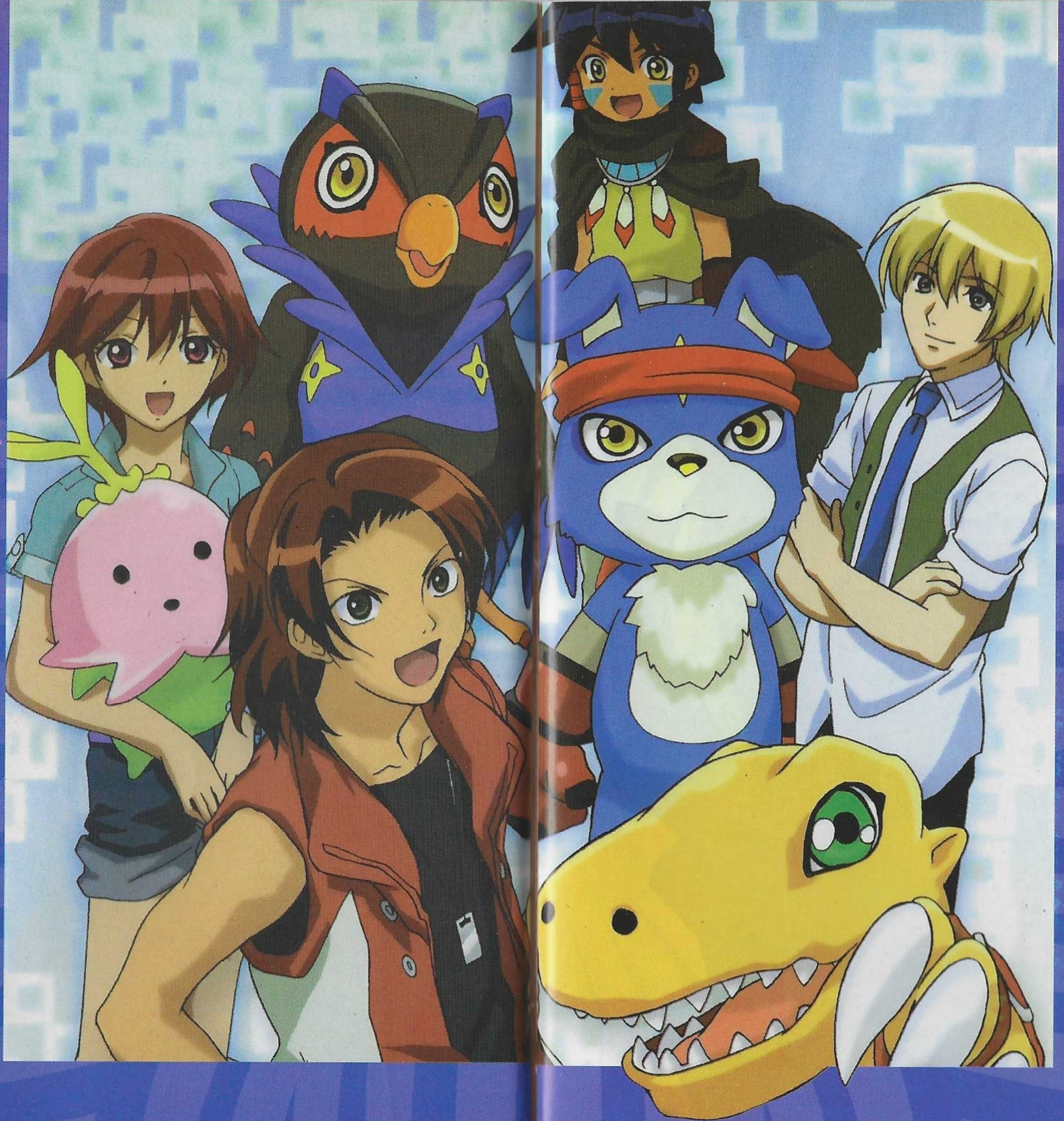
As one can say, Digimon Savers step-up by one level from the rest for its apparent differences but as one watches each Digimon series, each has its own unique quality that stems to their own originality.

But as the original trademark remains, Digimon are still in the limelight with the undying sense of friendship and camaraderie between partners and teammates which kiddies and children-at-heart would really love like the previous series were. So how could a Digimon evolve without their partner's Digivice? The same, old handy-dandy Digivice was still utilized but this time, Digimon Savers use a Digivice iC not only to evolve their faithful monsters but also to store them without using too much space! Their Digivices upgrade also as their partners evolve to "burst mode."

So Digi-Fans and soon-to-be-fans alike...unite and charge your soul by watching Digimon Savers and let it all out and shout... "DIGISOUL...CHARGE! BURST MODE!"

Note: Digimon Savers was renamed to Digimon: Data Squad in the United States. Also, names of some characters (like other Digimon series) were altered to suit the English language.

Digidestined with their Digipartners!



Masaru (Marcus) Daimon and Agumon – Masaru's hot-blooded attitude goes well with Agumon's fighting spirit. His brash personality compounds to his sense of justice and pride and so he proclaims himself as Japan's No. 1 fighter. Tough on the outside but a good person at heart, he cares for his family more than anything especially to his missing dad that he looks up to. Agumon calls Masaru his "aniki" like a yakuza- sworn brother as his trust and fealty never wavers for him. [V.A. Souichiro Hoshi – Son Goku (Gensoumaden Saiyuki) and Kazuki (Getbackers)]

Yoshino Fujieda and Raramon – the only female among them, Yoshino tries her best not wanting to show her insecurities and weaknesses. She is truly a meek girl but because of her responsibilities, she does her best to be active. Yoshino's digimon, Raramon, reflects a docile personality yet in times of struggle and need, she draws her strength from Yoshino showing their unbreakable bond. [V.A. Yui Aragaki – Mirara (Keroro Gunso Movie)]

Tohma (Thomas) Norstein and Gaomon – Blonde, blue eyes and an air of attitude. That is Masaru's first impression of Tohma. At the beginning, they seem to not get along but through the course of time as they work together, they learn to believe with each other's capabilities and in the end become true friends. Gaomon acts like Tohma's private servant doing everything what his master commands yet he knows that Tohma revered him more than just a partner Digimon. [V.A. Hirofumi Nojima – Kou Kojima (Gunparade Orchestra) and Fenrir (Detective Loki)]

Ikuto Noguchi (Keenan Crier) – the last member of squad to join the gang. Ikuto is an abandoned child and was brought up by digimons. At their first encounter, he fights Masaru as an opponent under Mercurimon but as the series progresses, a sudden shift of events make Ikuto join Masaru and eventually look up to him. His digimon partner is Falcomon and they have been friends ever since Ikuto was abandoned. [V.A. Rie Kugimiya – Alphonse Eric (Full Metal Alchemist) and Shana (Shakugan no Shana)]

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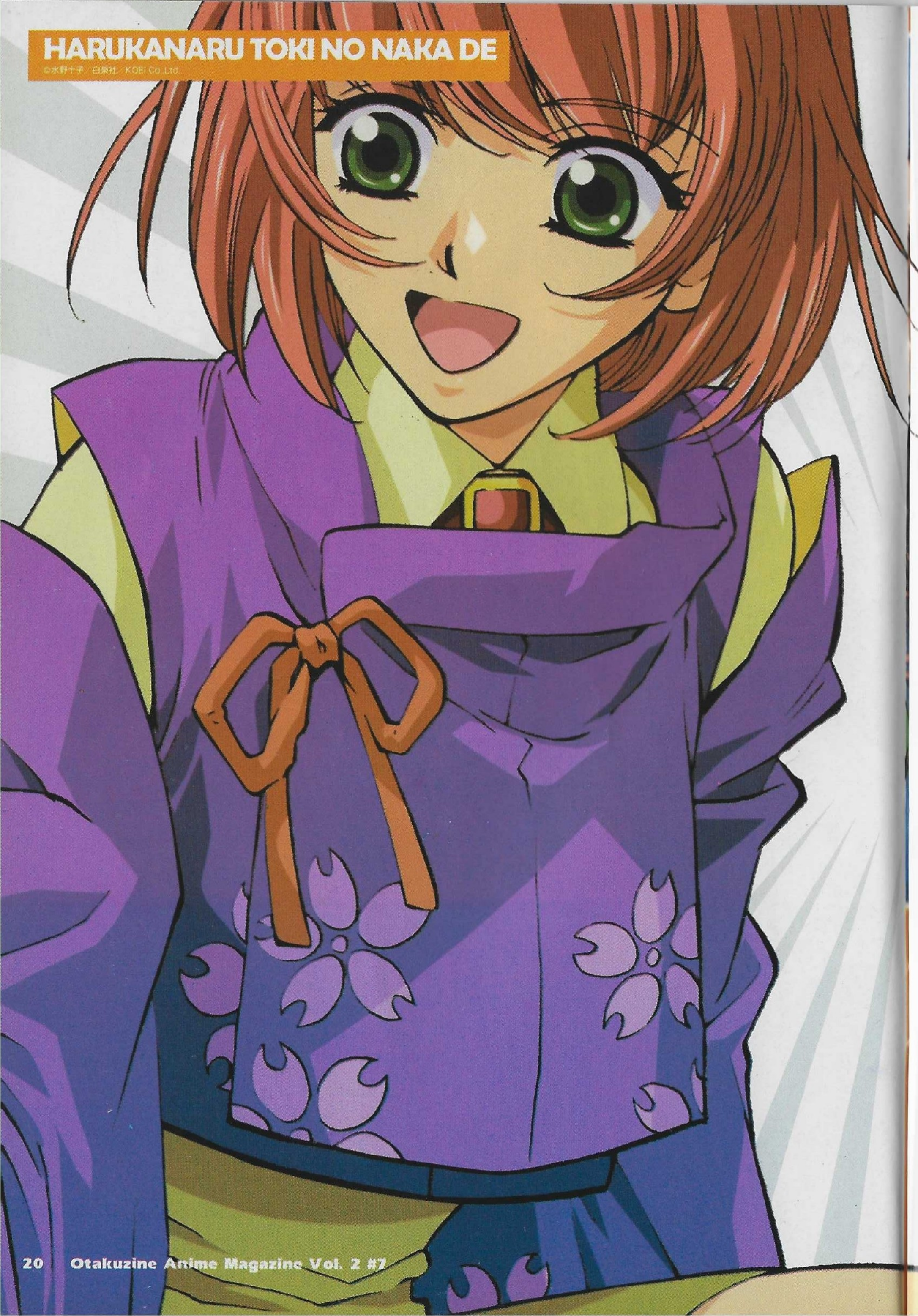


IN DISTANT TIME

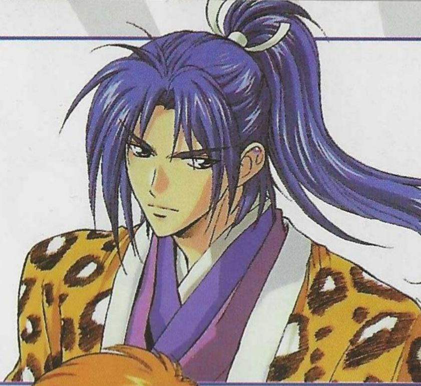
by Lan

The country of Kyou is a mysterious yet peaceful land protected by four gods: Seiryu, the Blue Dragon of the East; Suzaku, the Red Phoenix of the South; Byakko, the White Tiger of the West; and Genbu, the Black Tortoise of the South. But when the Demon clan had taken away the gods of protection, an ominous cloud descends upon the land. As darkness engulfs the earth, the legendary Ryuujin no Miko appears.

AKANE MOTOMIYA

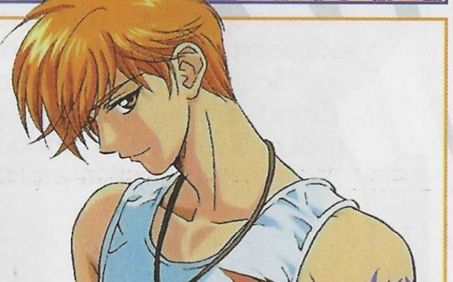
Akane is a simple high school girl free from any worries and pressure but the sudden shift of role as a miko opens her eyes to the world of hardships and responsibilities. As the Ryuujin no Miko, Akane is protected by eight guardians endowed with the power of the four gods. *[V.A. Tomoko Kawakami – Fuyuki Hinata (Keroro Gunsou) and Rosette (Chrono Crusade)]*

MINAMOTO NO YORIHISA



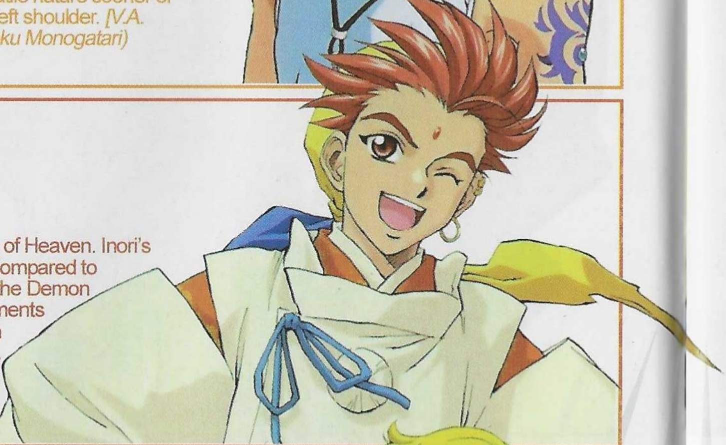
This serious blue-haired samurai is a Hachiyou, the Seiryu of Heaven. Stern by nature, Yorihisa is a disciplined and steadfast warrior sworn to protect Akane at all times. Though his unyielding aura makes him hard to approach, this guy has his own meek side that he does not want to show. His dragon gem is located on his upper left ear. *[V.A. Shinichiro Miki – Allen Schezar (Escaflowne) and Yoji Kudou (Weiss Kreuz)]*

TENMA MORIMURA



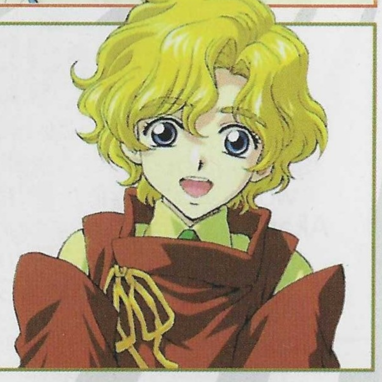
Akane's close friend and also a Hachiyou, the Seiryu of Earth. Being close to Akane, it's likely for him to fall for her and sometimes get jealous over the other Hachiyou. His orange head matches perfectly with his hot-blooded personality but he learns to control his volatile nature sooner or later. His dragon gem is located in his left shoulder. *[V.A. Tomokazu Seki – Ryuuki Shi (Saiunkoku Monogatari) and Chichiri (Fushigi Yuugi)]*

INORI



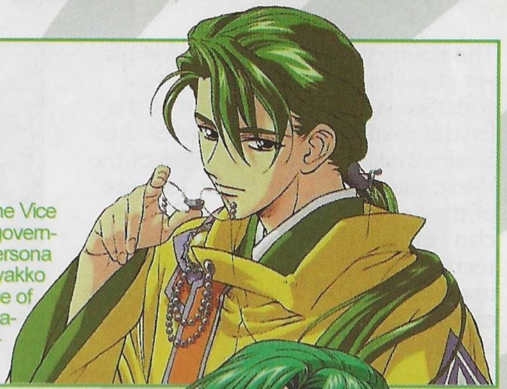
He is one of the Hachiyou, the Suzaku of Heaven. Inori's character seems more hot-tempered compared to Tenma and has an obvious disdain to the Demon clan. His red eyes and red hair compliments well with his fiery nature. Inori's dragon gem is located on his forehead. *[V.A. Naozumi Takahashi – Atari Maeda (Love Get Chu) and Ryouta Misumi (Futari wa Pretty Cure)]*

SHIMON NAGAREYAMA



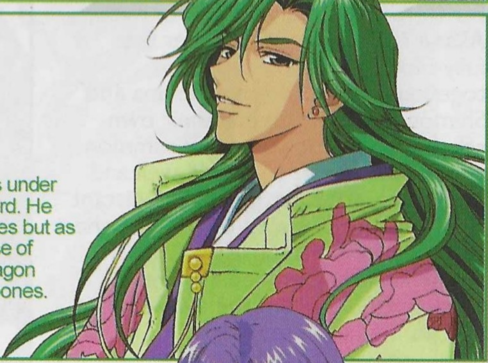
This junior high student is also a Hachiyou, the Suzaku of Earth and often than not, mistaken as one of the Demon clan due to his blonde hair and blue-eyes. Even Inori doesn't like him because he resembles them physically. But Inori eventually accepts Shimon as a friend after. His small stature and shy personality makes him look weaker compared to the others but his will to protect his friends makes him stronger. His dragon gem is on the back of his right hand. *[V.A. Kouki Miyata – Kantarou Ichinomiya (Tactics) and Nataku (Hoshin Engi)]*

FUJIWARA NO TAKAMICHI



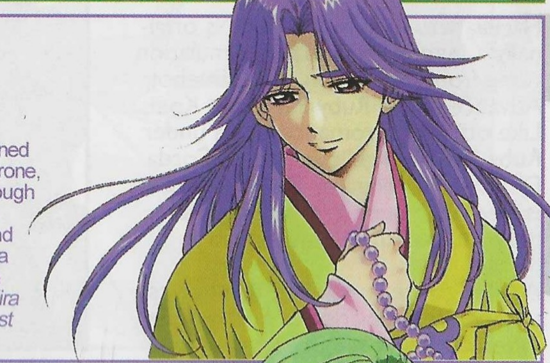
Takamichi comes from a noble family and works as the Vice Minister of Civil Affairs. Highly-esteemed among the government officials, his workaholic ethics and composed persona perfectly fits his job description. As a Hachiyou, the Byakko of Heaven, he utilizes his intelligence and astute sense of justice to guide Akane as well as to protect her. His dragon gem is on the right part of neck. *[V.A. Trowa Barton (Gundam Wing) and Android 17 (Dragon Ball Z)]*

TACHIBANA NO TOMOMASA



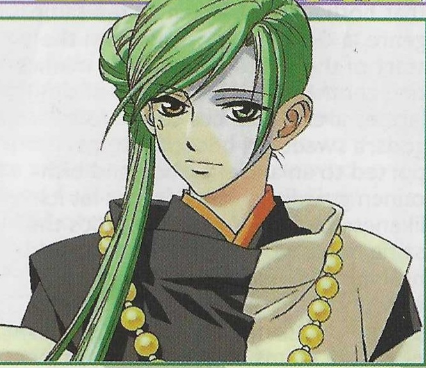
A nobleman like Takamichi, this narcisstic lady's man is under the Emperor as the Lieutenant of the Left Imperial Guard. He often teases (or seduces) Akane with his tantalizing eyes but as a Hachiyo, the Byakko of Earth, he uses his keen sense of judgment and power to guard Akane at all cost. His dragon gem is in his suprasternal notch or between his collar bones. *[V.A. Kazuhiko Inoue – William (Romeo x Juliet) and Hatake Kakashi (Naruto)]*

EISEN



As a member of the Imperial nobility and the Emperor's half-brother, Eisen exudes a very refined personality. To avoid any disagreement to the throne, he resigned his position to become a monk. Though living as a monk, the Emperor still cares for him and looks out for him. He loves serene music and often avoids conflict as much as possible. He is a Hachiyou, the Genbu of Heaven and his dragon gem is in his left palm. *[V.A. Souichiro Hoshi – Kira Yamato (Gundam Seed) and Kain Blueriver (Lost Universe)]*

ABE NO YOSUAKI

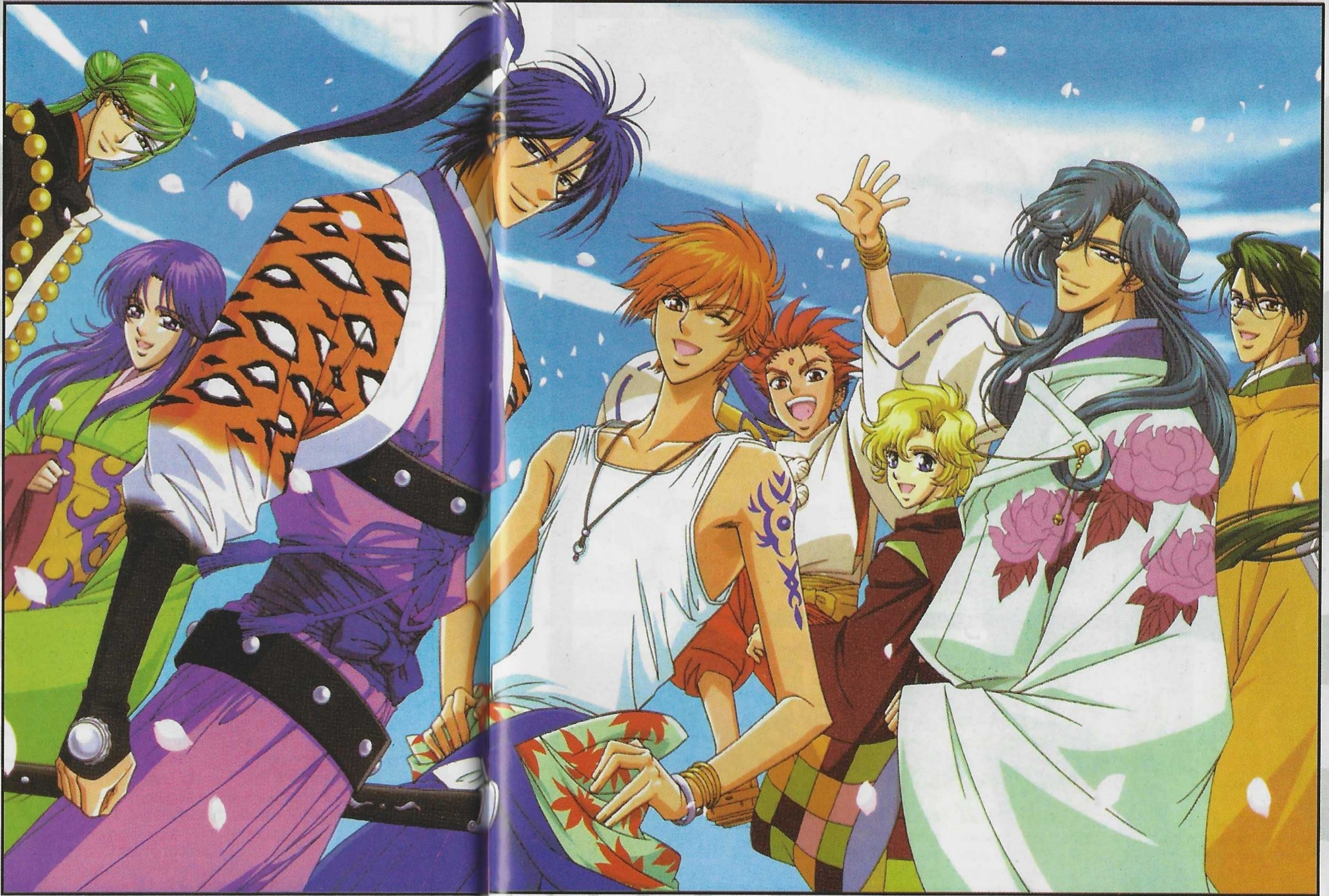


A man of few words, Yasuaki is a mysterious person and a skilled onmyouji. As a Hachiyou, the Genbu of Earth, he uses his skills to exorcise demons. Emotionless by nature, only a few would see him show feelings. His dragon gem is below his right-golden eye. Note that his eyes are of different colors, a golden right eye and a green left eye. *[V.A. Akira Ishida – Athrun Zala (Gundam Seed) and Cho Hakkai (Gensoumaden Saiyuki)]*

The country of Kyou is a mysterious yet peaceful land protected by four gods: Seiryu, the Blue Dragon of the East; Suzaku, the Red Phoenix of the South; Byakko, the White Tiger of the West; and Genbu, the Black Tortoise of the South. But when the Demon clan had taken away the gods of protection, an ominous cloud descends upon the land. As darkness engulfs the earth, the legendary Ryuujin no Miko appears.

Far from the mystifying land of Kyou, Akane Motomiya walks under the fully-bloomed cherry blossoms together with her friends, Tenma and Shimon. On their way to their own schools, an unknown power summons Akane leading her to an old well and magically transports her to the distant land of Kyou. Revealed to her that she is the legendary Ryuujin no Miko, Akane and her destined Hachiyou must save Kyou from the evil Akram and his Demon clan.

Harukanaru Toki no Naka de is originally a Neoromance dating simulation game from Playstation and Gameboy Advance under Ruby Party and Koei. Like other Neoromance labels under Ruby Party (Angelique and La Corda D' Oro), Harukanaru Toki no Naka de is a popular game in Japan that has now reached the anime industry.



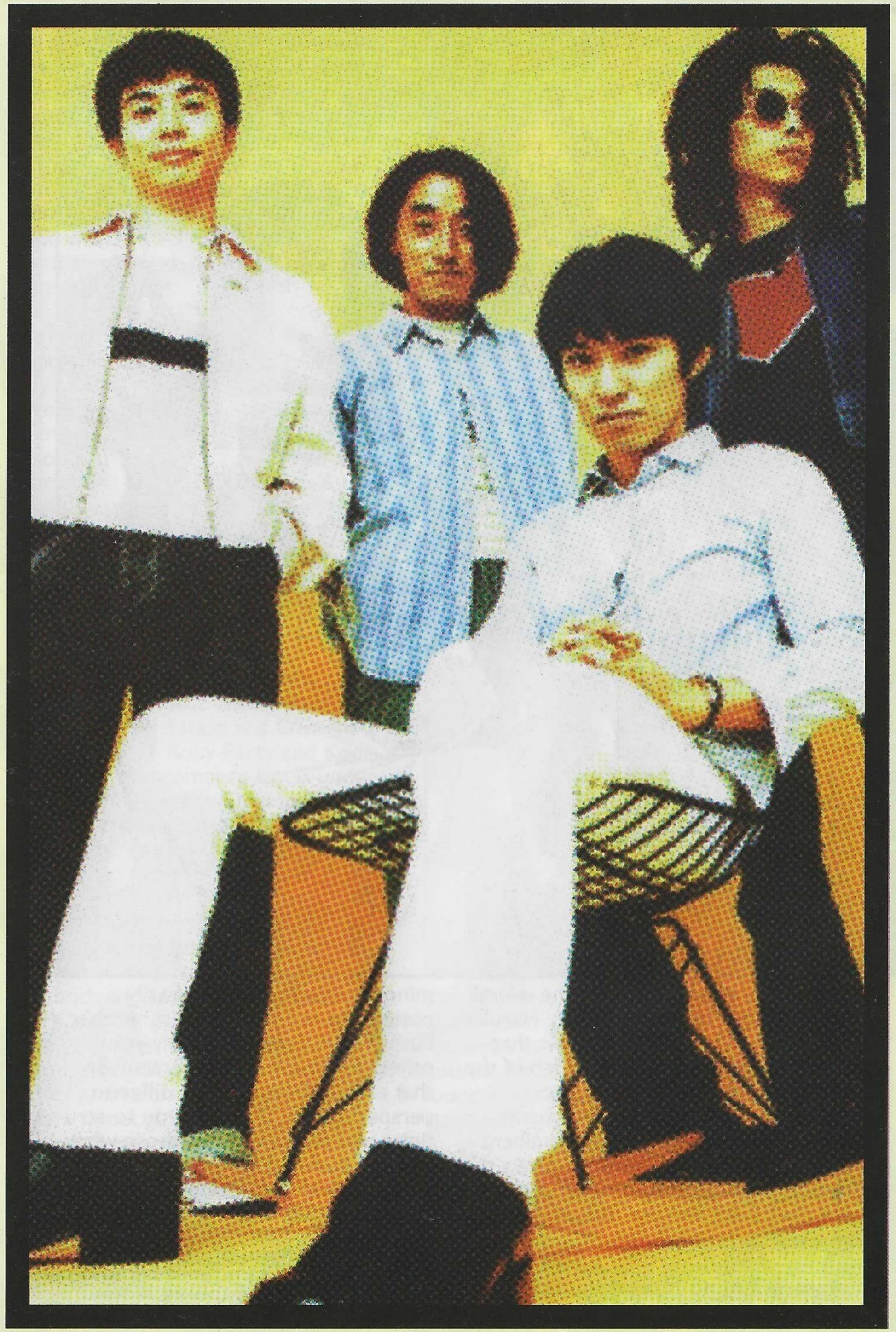
At first glance, one might think of its uncanny resemblance to Fushigi Yuugi in terms of its premise. True enough that both anime falls under the same genre and the progression from the start of the series consistently mimics one another. Good examples of similarities are: references to the four gods; a sweet girl becomes transported to an ancient place; and bishounen guardians. But do not let its likeness fool you from saying "it's the same hocus pocus." Harukanaru Toki no Naka de boasts less romantic encounter in contrast to the "overly" passionate scenes of Fushigi Yuugi. The plot itself stems to a different perspective emphasizing more on trust and friendship as the central bond between the Miko and her Hachiyou rather than romantic love. Of course, the ardent romance portion is only found in the game version and has been stripped from the anime counterpart.

Vibrant colors and hues blend rather well with the general look of the anime. Though not as detailed as it should be, the animation can be considered well-done. The characters are the ones given with greatest importance as this anime displays a bunch of bishounen guys and some bishoujo girls as well.

Music for this anime completes the overall package. The opening songs titled "Haruka, Kimi no Moto e" is a dashing music that compliments the "bishounen" touch of the series since some of the seiyuus performed this song. Various ending theme songs are played but the most prominent of them all is "Flowin' ~Ukigomo~." As the ending credit rolls the screen, our eight "bishounen" Hachiyou are flashed in their colored manga versions.

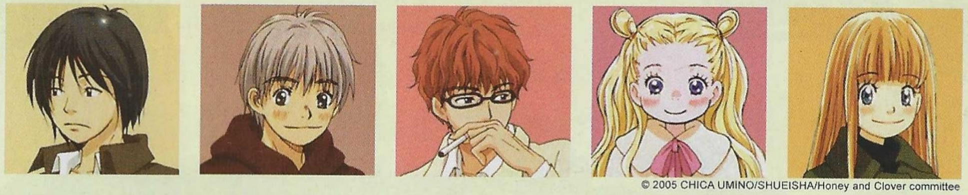
Harukanaru Toki no Naka de is actually above the comparison but still it has its minor quirks that people easily notices. So, still think it's just another Fushigi flick? Some might say yes, others might say no but remember that each one has its own different perspective and it's up to you to scrutinize and decide. But for those who enjoyed Fushigi Yuugi will most likely fall head-over-heels for this one.

Note: *Ryuujin no Miko* – Priestess of the Dragon God; *Hachiyou* – In the anime, it pertains to the eight warriors sworn to protect the Ryuujin no Miko. Literally speaking, hachiyou means "eight leaves"



Spitz

by Adz



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Spitz is one of the highly respected bands of today's generation from the land of the rising sun. They were originally formed in 1987 by guitarist Tetsuya Miwa and bassist Akihiro Tamura. Tamura eventually met vocalist Masamune Kusano who was attending an arts college in Tokyo. Later, they were joined by drummer Sakiyama Tatsuo to complete the quartet.

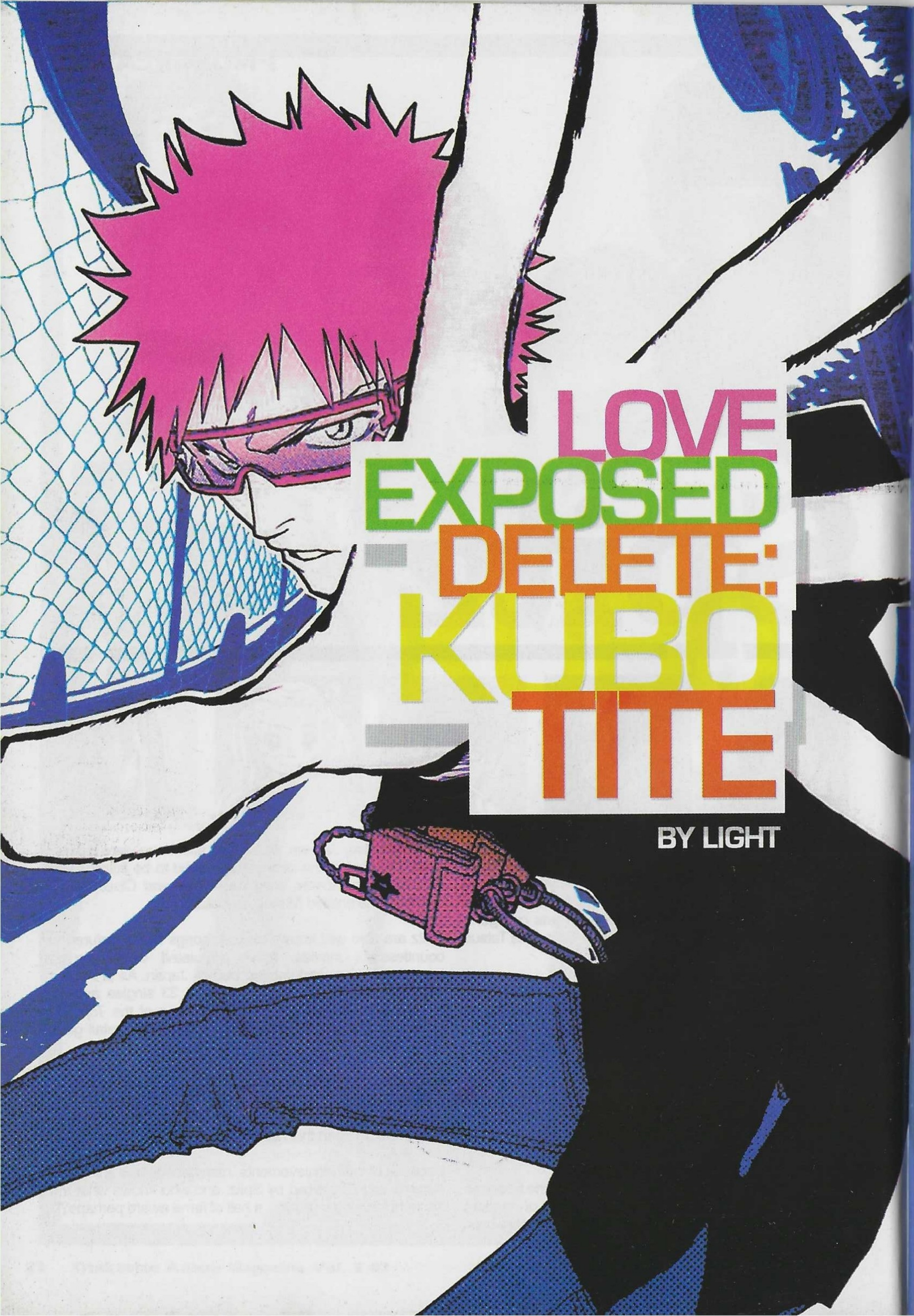
Kusano wrote almost all their songs and they fashioned their music around the melodic pop/rock genre, similar to the Beatles. In 1991 they released their first single *Hibari no Kokoro* and their self-titled album, *SPITZ*, although they went unnoticed until the singles *Namida ga Kirari* and *Robinson* and the album *Hachimitsu* were released in 1995. A year later, *Cherry*, their most famous song was released. *Sora mo Toberu Hazu* was a theme song of a well-known drama, Nakusen Nagashi and is also being used in school graduation ceremonies.

Apparently, a lot of their songs were featured in the hit anime series, *Honey and Clover*, as insert songs of random episodes from the two seasons of the series. Singles such as *Hachimitsu*, *Sakana*, *Spica*, and a lot more were used in certain scenes of the series that proved to be fitting. They also made the theme song for *Honey and Clover's* live-action theme entitled *Mahou no Kotoba*.

Spitz are also well known for their songs being featured in countless of movies, music simulated video games, television shows, and commercials in Japan. As of August 2007 the band has already released 33 singles and 15 albums and they were also voted as one of the *Top 100 Japanese Pop Artists* of all time by the music retail giant HMV Japan.

In time for the band's 20th anniversary this 2007, Spitz have released their latest album to date entitled, *Sazanami CD*. The album sold 116,000 copies and was on the top of the Oricon album chart this October, 2007.

Because of their achievements, many bands and artists are inspired and influenced by Spitz, and who knows what the future holds for the group... a hall of fame award perhaps?



LOVE EXPOSED DELETE: KUBO TITE

BY LIGHT

THE BRILLIANT MIND BEHIND THE INCREDIBLE, MIND-BOGGLING, AND WIDELY ENTERTAINING ANIME AND MANGA SERIES CALLED *BLEACH* IS A GUY KNOWN TO THE OTAKU WORLD AS KUBO TITE OR KUBO TAITO. KUBO TITE IS ACTUALLY ONLY A PEN NAME FOR NORIAKI KUBO.

BORN ON JUNE 26, 1977, HE FIRST BEGAN DRAWING MANGA IN HIGH SCHOOL. HE WAS ALSO A MEMBER OF HIS SCHOOL'S ANIME CLUB. IT WAS ALSO DURING HIGH SCHOOL THAT HE CREATED HIS FIRST MANGA CALLED ZOMBIE POWDER. HE WAS SUCCESSFUL IN GETTING THE SERIES PUBLISHED. UNFORTUNATELY, DUE TO LACK OF AUDIENCE INTEREST ONLY FOUR VOLUMES OF THE SAID SERIES WAS RELEASED. *(NOTE: IF YOU READ THE SERIES TODAY YOU CAN SEE SOME DEFINITE LINKS BETWEEN ZOMBIE POWDER TO THE EVENTUAL EVOLUTION TO WHAT HAS BECOME A VERY DIFFERENT STORY, BLEACH.)*

AFTER HIS DISAPPOINTMENT WITH ZOMBIE POWDER, KUBO BEGAN CONCEPTUALIZING AND CREATING A NEW MANGA HE CALLED "BLEACH." HOWEVER, WHEN HE FIRST PRESENTED THE NEW SERIES TO WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP IT WAS REJECTED BECAUSE IT WAS ACCORDINGLY SIMILAR TO YUYU HAKUSHO WHICH AT THAT TIME WAS STILL A VERY POPULAR MANGA.

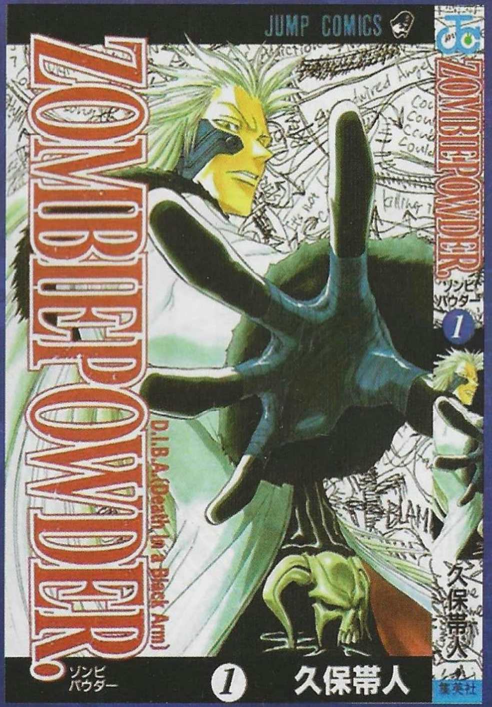
THE MANGA SERIES WAS LATER PRESENTED TO A GROUP OF INDEPENDENT READERS WHO RECEIVED IT ENTHUSIASTICALLY. HOWEVER, KUBO WAS STILL DISHEARTENED AND WAS HESITANT TO CONTINUE THE SERIES BECAUSE OF THE INITIAL REJECTION HE FACED WITH WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP. THE SAVING GRACE (ERR... INSPIRATION) CAME FROM THE LEGENDARY AKIRA TORIYAMA OF THE DRAGONBALL SERIES FAME WHO SENT KUBO A LETTER OF REASSURANCE AND ENCOURAGEMENT. THE LETTER GAVE KUBO THE MUCH NEEDED MOTIVATION TO TRY AGAIN. EVENTUALLY HIS EFFORTS PAID OFF AND WEEKLY SHONEN JUMP DECIDED TO SERIALIZE HIS MANGA.

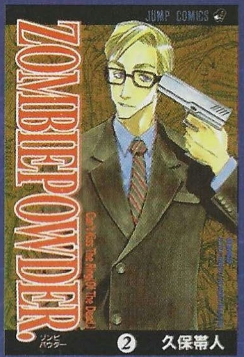
THE MANGA IS NOW WELL OVER 200 CHAPTERS IN LENGTH WITH NO SIGN OF SLOWING. ITS ANIME COUNTERPART AIRED BY TV TOKYO IS STILL TOPPING TV CHARTS ESPECIALLY SINCE THE THIRD SEASON IS NEARING ITS MUCH AWAITED CLINCHER. CURRENTLY, KUBO HAS TWO ART BOOKS PUBLISHED: *BLEACH ALL COLOUR BUT THE BLACK* AND *BLEACH OFFICIAL BOOTLEG.*

BLEACH
ブリーチ
SHONEN JUMP GRAPHIC NOVEL
Story & Art by
Tite Kubo
volume 1

BLEACH
ブリーチ
Tite Kubo
volume 2

BLEACH
ブリーチ
Tite Kubo
volume 3


JUMP COMICS
ZOMBIEPOWDER.
D.I.B.A. (Death in a Black Arm)
ゾンビパウダー
1
久保帯人
集英社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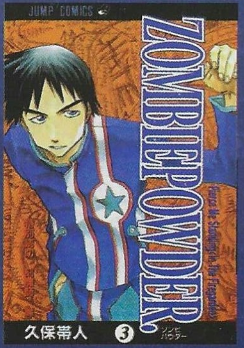
ゾンビパウダー
2
久保帯人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ZOMBIEPOWDER.
ゾンビパウダー
久保帯人
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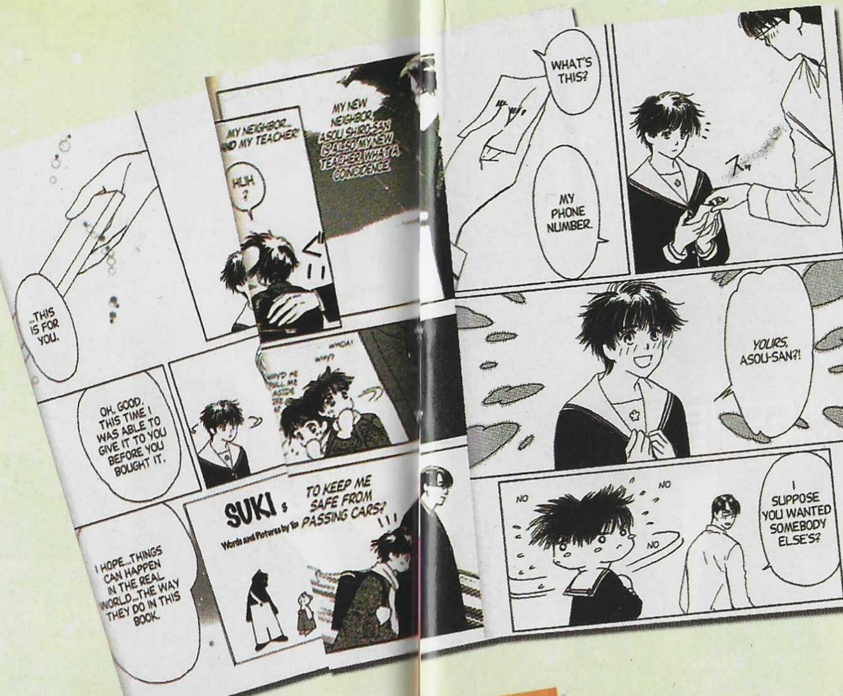
WHAT'S THIS?
MY PHONE NUMBER.
YOURS, ASOU-SAN?!
I SUPPOSE YOU WANTED SOMEBODY ELSE'S?
NO
NO
NO
MY NEW NEIGHBOR, ASOU SHIROU-SAN IS ALSO MY NEW TEACHER! WHAT A COINCIDENCE!
MY NEIGHBOR... AND MY TEACHER!
HUH?
WHOA!
WHY?
TO KEEP ME SAFE FROM PASSING CARS?
SUKI
Words and Pictures by
...THIS IS FOR YOU.
OH, GOOD, THIS TIME I WAS ABLE TO GIVE IT TO YOU BEFORE YOU BOUGHT IT.
I HOPE...THINGS CAN HAPPEN IN THE REAL WORLD...THE WAY THEY DO IN THIS BOOK.

SUKI
SUKI
A LIKE STORY
3
CLAMP
SUKI
A LIKE STORY
1
CLAMP
TOKYOPOP

SUKI

Thank You for Doing the Things I Love

by A-chan

Love...
I love things. I love people.
But what is love?
I love being treated kindly!
I love having things I love done to me!
Love is a fun and happy thing!

Asahi Hinata is a cheerful 16-year old student. On the surface, one would never guess that she is actually a survivor of nine kidnap for ransom incidents. Though she excels in class, she sees the world in an innocent child-like way (despite her age). She lives alone but claims that she has two housemates (which are actually just a pair of teddy bears). One night, she noticed that the house next door would have an occupant soon so she goes there to find out. She discovers that her new neighbor is a 32-year old man named Asou Shirou. Hina chats with Shirou like it wasn't their first time to meet, much to the disdain of the older person.

The next day, Hina finds out that Shirou is their substitute teacher. She felt happy that she'd get to spend more time with him. Shirou, on the other hand, cannot seem to comprehend Hina's ability to readily trust any person or situation she encounters. As she continues to get to know her new neighbor, Hina's best friends Touko and Emi are having feelings of suspicion. Is Asou-sensei simply just their substitute teacher? And is it just purely coincidence that he lives next door to Hina?

Written by the famous mangaka quartet, CLAMP, Suki, Dakara Suki (I Like You, That's Why I Like You) is not your ordinary love story. Though it is only composed of 3 volumes, CLAMP was able to bring out all the necessary elements to mold their characters nicely. And just like Chobits, their other popular work, Suki makes use of a symbolic children's story to mirror the occurrences in Hina and Shirou's lives.

This manga is also teddy bear-themed (thanks to Hina's unconditional love for them), so if you like love stories and these huggable dolls, then Suki is recommended in your reading list.

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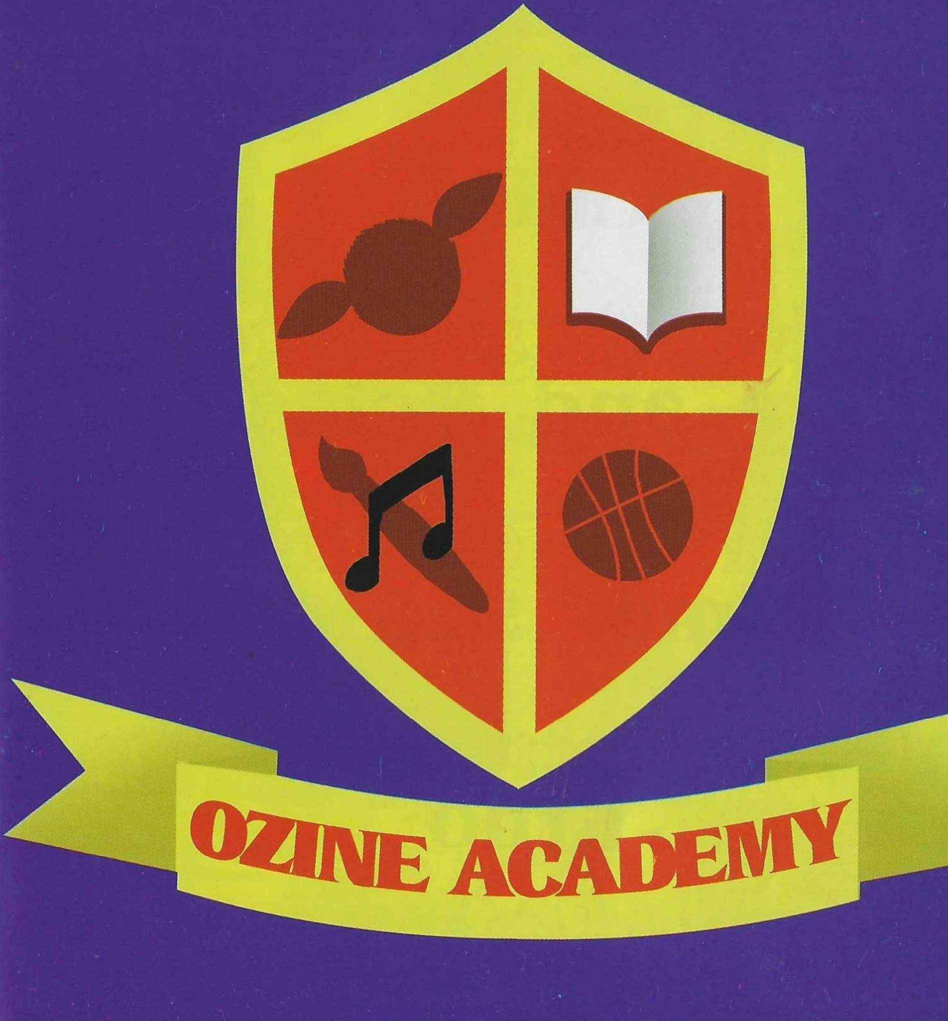
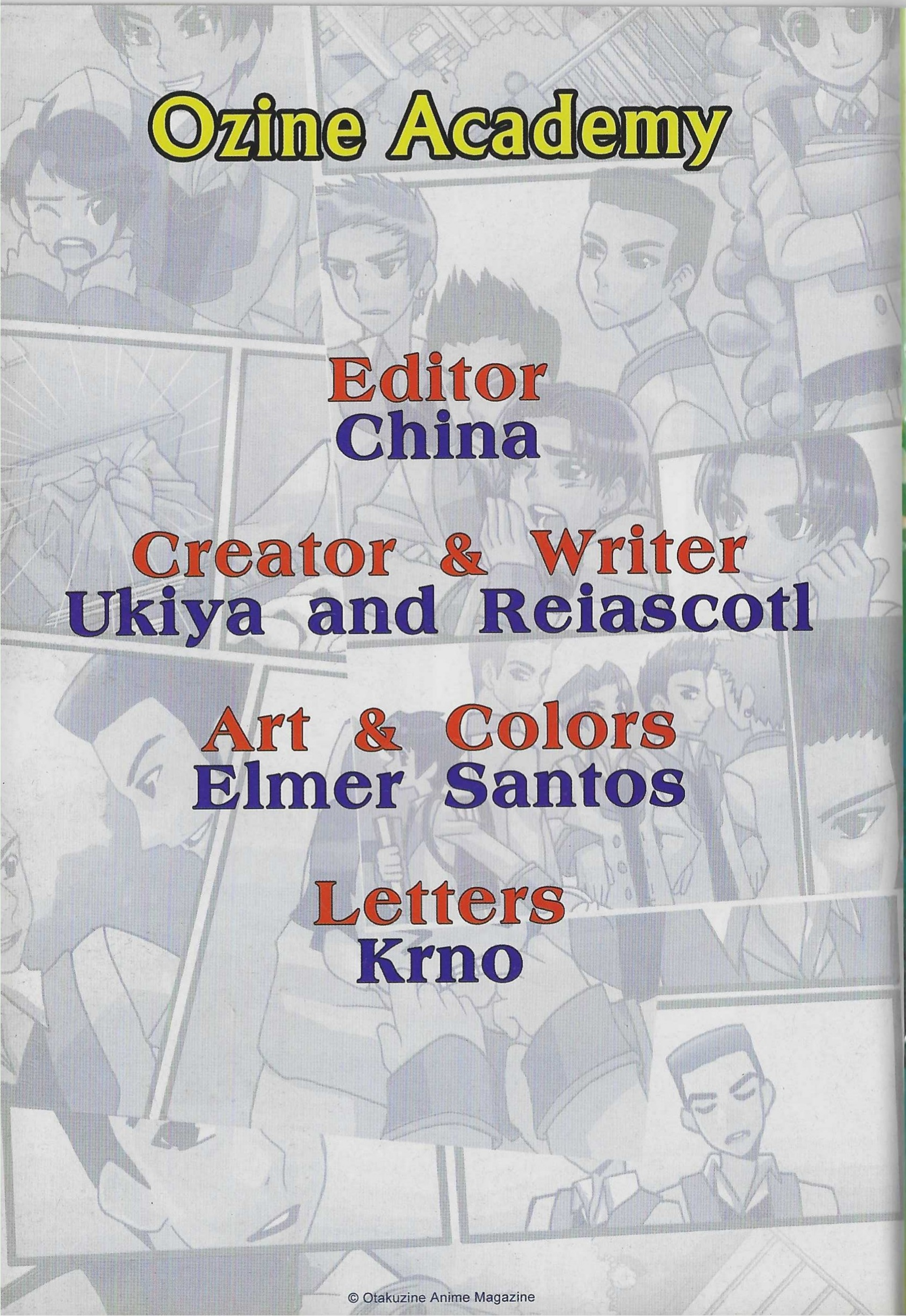


OZINE ACADEMY



Ozine Academy

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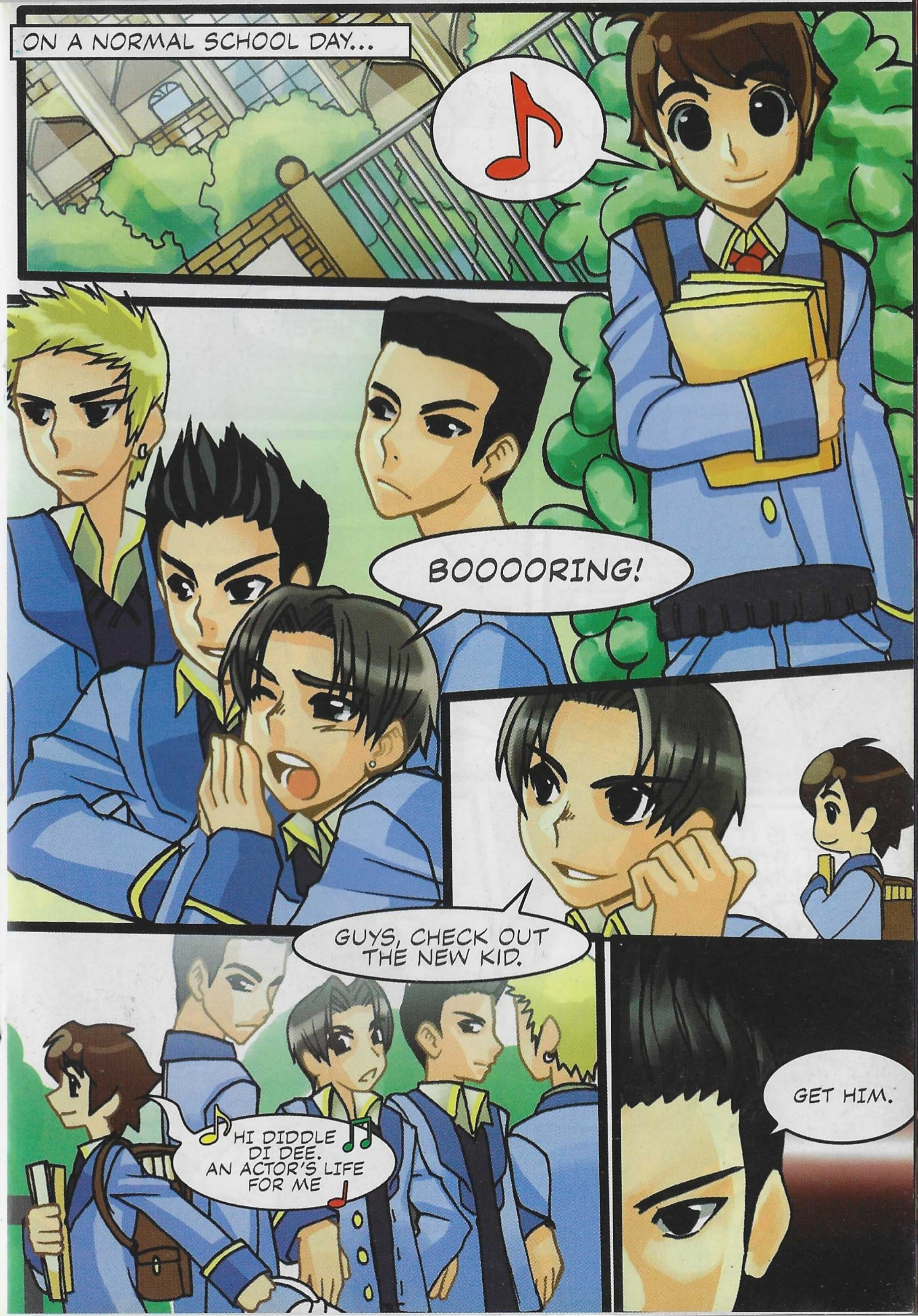
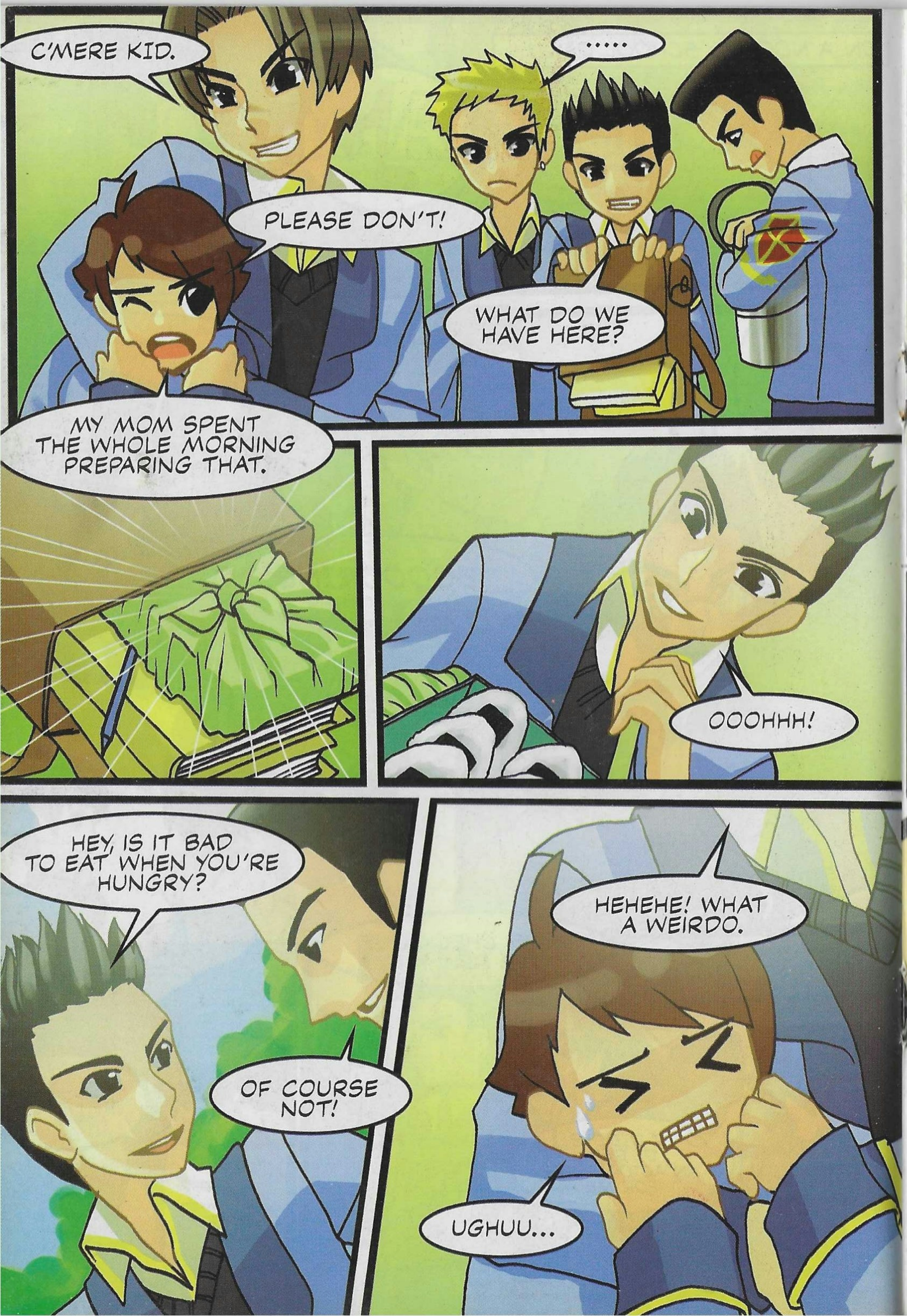
China

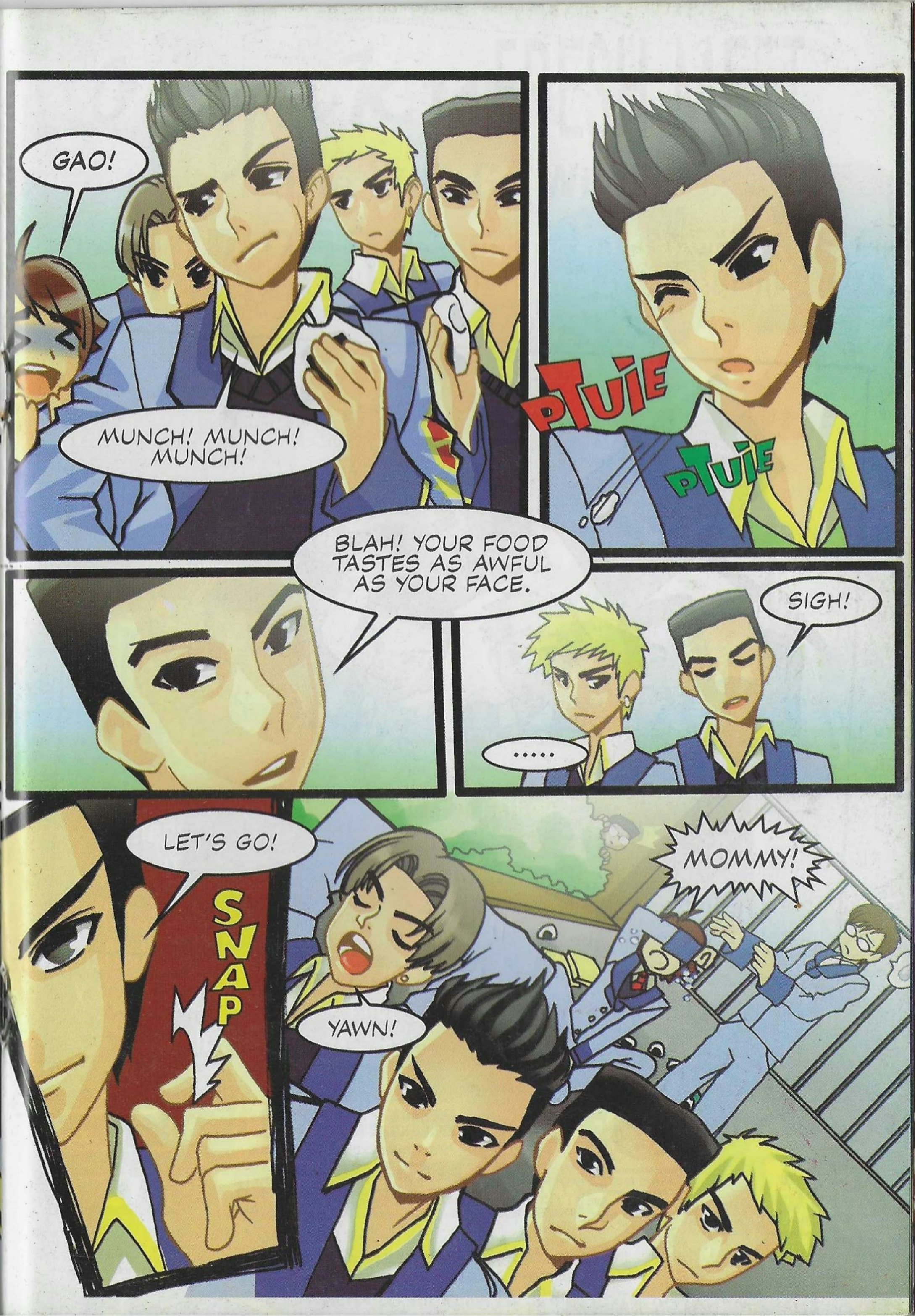
Creator & Writer
Ukiya and Reiascotl

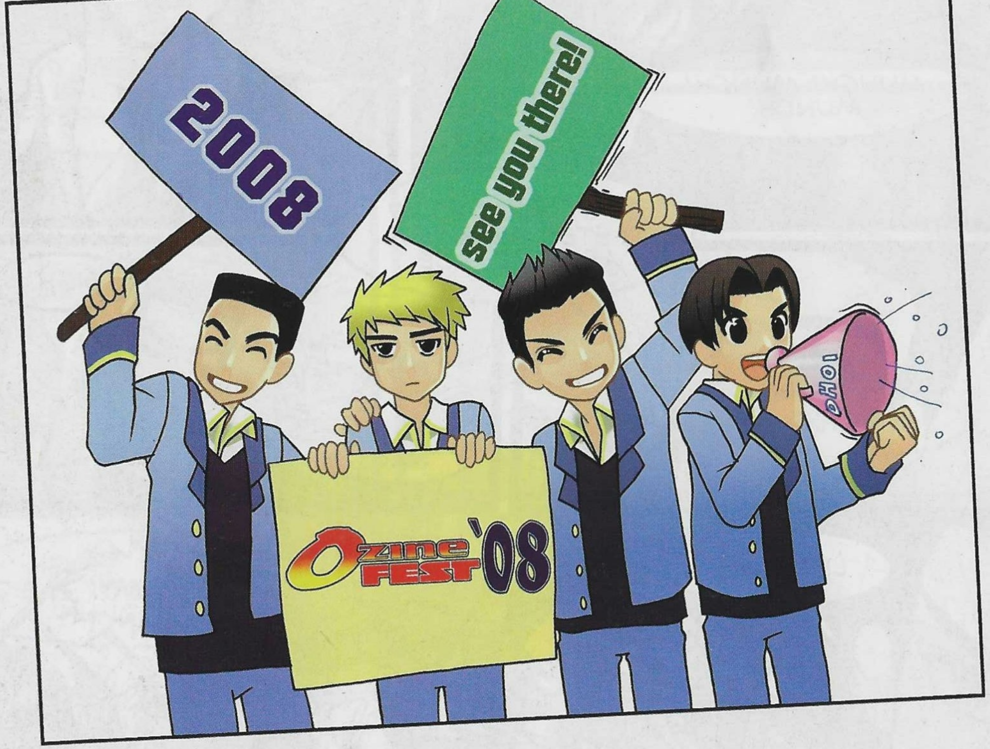
Art & Colors
Elmer Santos

Letters
Krno


ON A NORMAL SCHOOL DAY...
♪
BOOOORING!
GUYS, CHECK OUT THE NEW KID.
♪ HI DIDDLE DI DEE. ♫ AN ACTOR'S LIFE FOR ME ♪
GET HIM.


C'MERE KID.
......
PLEASE DON'T!
WHAT DO WE HAVE HERE?
MY MOM SPENT THE WHOLE MORNING PREPARING THAT.
OOOHHH!
HEY, IS IT BAD TO EAT WHEN YOU'RE HUNGRY?
OF COURSE NOT!
HEHEHE! WHAT A WEIRDO.
UGHUU...


GAO!
MUNCH! MUNCH! MUNCH!
PTUIE
PTUIE
BLAH! YOUR FOOD TASTES AS AWFUL AS YOUR FACE.
SIGH!
......
LET'S GO!
SNAP
YAWN!
MOMMY!



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NEVER LET THE MUSIC DIE DOWN!

xxxHOLiC the Movie: A Midsummer Night's Dream

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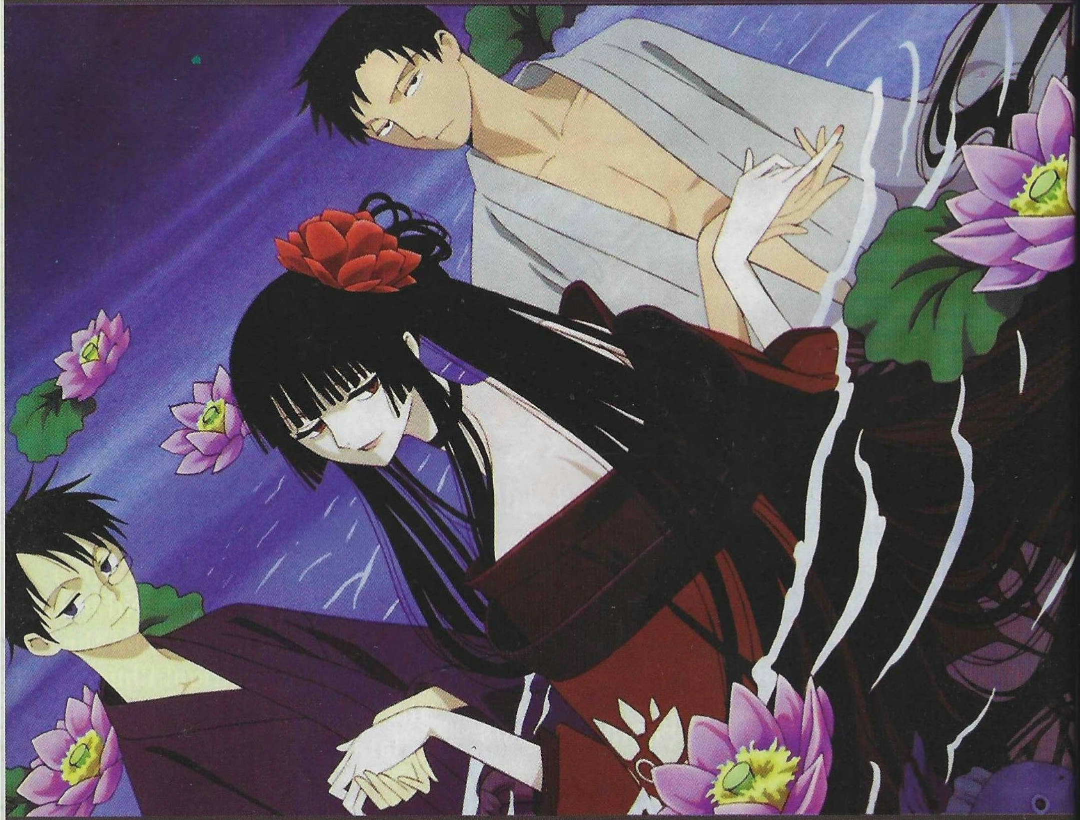


A COLLECTION LIKE NO OTHER

by A-chan

From CLAMP, the infamous quartet responsible for well-received titles like Card Captor Sakura, Magic Knight Rayearth, and Tsubasa Reservoir Chronicle come the 2005 film release of one of their latest creations, xxxHolic.

Subtitled A Midsummer Night's Dream (Manatsu No Yoru No Yume), the one-hour movie reintroduces our reluctant hero Watanuki Kimihiro, a young man blessed (or rather, cursed) with an ability to see and attract supernatural beings and spirits and alongside him is Ichihara Yuuko, the beautiful and enigmatic proprietor of a shop that supposedly can grant any kind of wish.

One fine day, Yuuko receives an invitation from an anonymous sender. She and Watanuki had only just begun discussing about the letter when a woman comes in the shop and enlists their help. She says that she had been away from her home for a long time and now that she has returned, she can't enter her own house. With only the house key as their guide, Yuuko travels to the woman's house along with Watanuki and his exorcist classmate, Doumeki.

Inside the magnificent mansion, the trio is only directed by an unseen person who communicates to them through letters. They also discover that within the guests, there is one similarity connecting them: all of them are collectors and that they received a letter saying that their collection is incomplete. What is the true motive of their invisible host? And how is the woman related to it?

The animation for xxxHolic movie is truly top-notch. Everything looks realistic – from the interior design down to its hallways and paintings, you'd feel like you're watching a movie with real actors. In addition, the flow of the story exposes slowly but steadily without completely giving it away in one go, thus, creating a good mystery and suspenseful mood.

The music is also superb. Magical-type sounds that somewhat resemble the Harry Potter movies resonate all throughout the film which creates an appropriate eerie atmosphere. The notable ending song is sung by Suga Shikao and is entitled "Sanagi" (Chrysalis).

A film which is highly acclaimed as to being a finalist in a prestigious animated film awards in France, xxxHolic is a sure favorite for fans in the mood for fantasy and mystery.

Shana vs Saber:

THE CLASH OF THE SWORD OF FLAME AND THE INVISIBLE SWORD

While searching for tomogaras, Shana came across a blonde girl wearing medieval-looking armor. Shana stopped at her tracks and examined the person in front of her. "She doesn't look like a tomogara but I can't sense any power of existence either, what is she?" Shana drew her sword and cautiously approached the girl with blonde hair. The girl then faced Shana with her hands gripping something like a sword but Shana can't see it. "I'm Saber the servant; I won't let you near my master!" Saber then swung the huge invisible object toward Shana and Shana felt a slash across her shoulder. Shana was surprised to feel the bleeding cut on her left shoulder. "But how?" Shana then attacked back slashing at Saber but Saber blocked every blow with her invisible sword.

"Shana!" said a male voice. It was Yuji running towards Shana. "Are you ok?"

"I'm fine. Step aside! I've got to find her weak spot." Saber then again dashed towards Shana as Shana braced herself for the impact. The sound of two swords clashing roared in the air. Shana countered with a flaming slash and she hit Saber on the arm. Saber jumped back to avoid Shana's follow-up attack. Just then, Shiro arrived and tended Saber's wound. Shana was surprised to see Saber's master, Shiro. "Who is he?" Shana asked herself. "Shana I think we need to be more cautious. I think this guy's her partner," said Yuji. "I know, maybe he has some hidden powers within him too. Find a hiding place Yuji. This battle can become intense."

© Yashichiro Takahashi • Mediaworks / Shakugan No Shana

Shana then ran towards Saber and Shiro, her flaming sword aiming for Saber's heart. Shana felt the sword stabbed into the flesh but she also felt it was not a fatal hit. She hit Shiro in the arm as Shiro tried to protect Saber. Then, almost like it came from nowhere a force hit Shana on the chest. Shana was thrown away by the impact. Then suddenly, Shana heard a voice. "To be able to defeat the servant, you must take its master's life." "Wha~ who are you? And what do you mean by master?" Shana said as she was truly confused. "I'm referring to the boy who's with her. Kill him and the servant will be defeated."

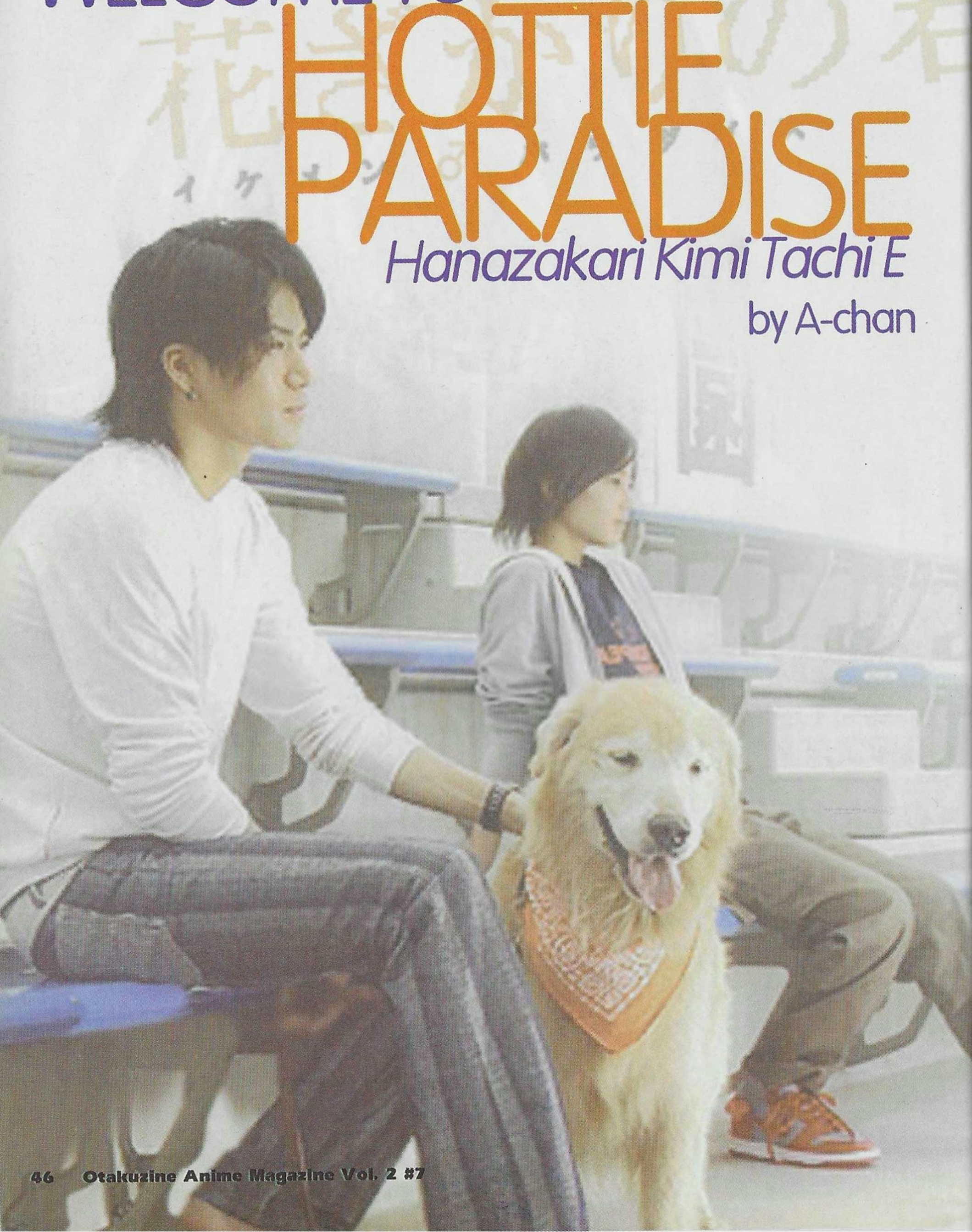
"I understand!" Shana reached for her sword and planned her attack. She's looking at the bleeding Saber with Shiro beside her. She then made her decision. Shana wasting no time charged towards her opponent. Saber prepared to defend as she positioned herself in front of Shiro with blinding speed Shana stabbed towards Saber as she instinctively raised her hand to defend. To Saber's surprise, Shana went pass her and stabbed Shiro in the heart. Shiro fell lifeless on the ground as Saber disappeared into thin air because she now lost her master. Shana went back to Yuji, grabbed him by the hand as they walked away from Shiro's lifeless body. "I wonder who that mysterious voice is..." Shana asked Yuji and Yuji only stared at her blankly. Not far from them atop a tree, Rider confirmed the defeat of Saber, as she returned back to her master.

© TYPE-MOON / Fate Project

WELCOME TO HOTTIE PARADISE

Hanazakari Kimi Tachi E

by A-chan



A school with only good-looking boys who all live in dormitories. That school is Osaka High.
A new student from America has transferred there by the name of Ashiya Mizuki.
Gender: female
………….O_O!!!

A few years ago in California, a girl named Ashiya Mizuki was chased by a group of men but was luckily saved by a young man who turned out to be a star high jumper. In the heat of the chase, the man named Sano got wounded. Later on, Mizuki found out that Sano decided not to compete anymore because of the injury. Impulsively, Mizuki flew to Japan to persuade Sano to try once more. But there's one catch, Sano is in a male-exclusive school and Mizuki's only choice is to be a boy herself!

Originally written by Nakajo Hisaya, the 23-volume manga series Hanazakari Kimi Tachi E (For You in Full Blossom) was given its live action rendition last July 2007. Subtitled Ikemen Paradise (Hottie Paradise), the series promises a heart-warming love story and of course, a whole school load of handsome and charismatic boys.

While the storyline is pretty much jumbled, modified, and condensed compared to its predecessor, the live action of Hana-Kimi was still able to make a strong impression with a good and solid plot. The main concentration of this series is humor. And humor it has in big bundles! Each episode will definitely leave you laughing like crazy.

The three main characters – Ashiya Mizuki, Sano Izumi, and Nakatsu Shuichi were brought to life by Horikita Maki, Oguri Shun, and Ikuta Toma. With regards to looks, Maki pretty much nailed Mizuki but it would have been better if she had shown more masculine traits. Shun as Sano is a bit too quiet and boring and was eventually overshadowed by Toma's stellar Nakatsu performance. While the story ends with Mizuki and Sano as a couple, many fans think that Nakatsu is more suitable for Mizuki in the live action because he was given more chances to show and define his character. Other notable actors who gave great performances include Shirota Yuu as Sano's rival Kagurazaka Makoto, Yamamoto Yusuke as the aura-detector Kayashima Taiki and Ishigaki Yuma as the karate nut Tennouji Megumi.

Music was also a high factor in this series. The opening theme "Ikenai Taiyou" (sung by Orange Range) had a great upbeat intro for each episode. On the other hand, Otsuka Ai's "Peach" brought a nice closure, not to mention the LSS-factor of the song. Also, check out one of the episodes where Avril Lavigne's "Girlfriend" was used for a rather…funny reason.

For an adaptation, Hana-Kimi live action has definitely outdone itself instead of being a mere copy and was able to give a refreshing piece to its fans.

BREAKING FREE FROM THE SHADOWS

by A-chan

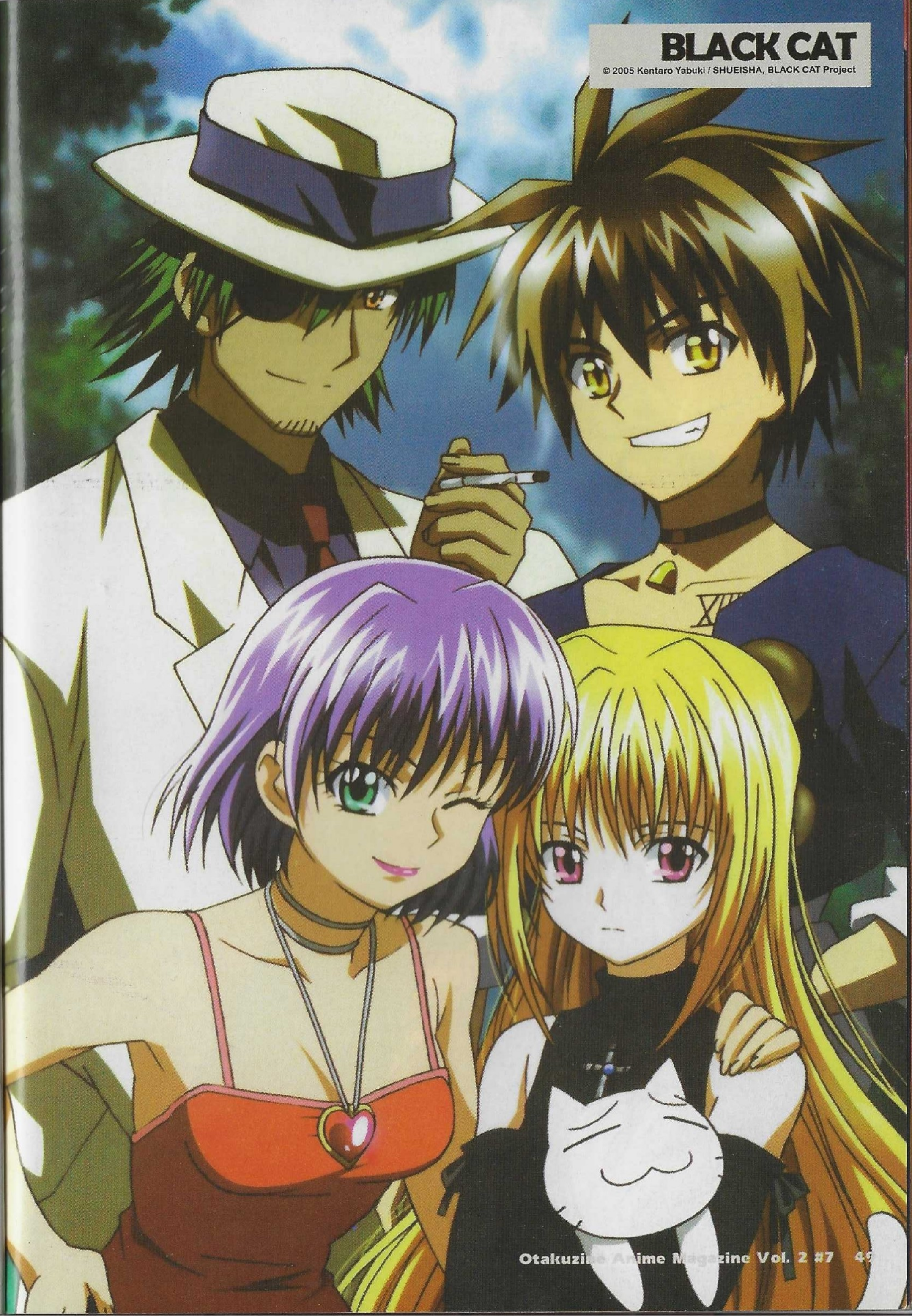
Within the society, there exists an organization called Chronos that hides behind the shadows. They are composed of the most powerful people in the world. In order to protect its members, a set of assassins is assembled known as the Chronos Numbers. All of them are highly skilled and experienced in fighting. There are thirteen numbers and each of them carries a code name.

Train Heartnett is a lone-wolf guy who is also known as Number "XIII" and with the code name "Black Cat." Cold and unemotional, Train simply follows what is instructed to him. But after his fateful meeting with a free-spirited girl, Train realized that he would very much prefer to have freedom as well. But it may only be achieved if he left Chronos. Unfortunately, the organization is not willing to let him off that easily – especially his partner-in-crime Creed Diskenth who became so obsessed of getting the old heartless Train back (really, he's an obsessed freak when Train is concerned).

Train has his own band of co-members to join – the eccentric but well-meaning Sven Vollfied, the innocent bio-weapon Eve, and the busty disguise-master Rinslet Walker. Together, they meet more comrades (some were former enemies) that came in handy when they discover that they were actually fighting a much bigger opponent than what they expected.

The 23-episode Black Cat doesn't make much of a big impact to me because of its lack of originality. The story is, to put it bluntly, cliché and somewhat a broken record. The pacing is very slow and too many characters were introduced but not much about their background were revealed and you're left wondering if they even had a role at all.

The background music was satisfactory – the composer was the same person who did the jazzy music of the Read or Die series. The animation was expectedly very good since it was handled by GONZO but other than that, Black Cat was only able to give a faint meow.



BLACK CAT

© 2005 Kentaro Yabuki / SHUEISHA, BLACK CAT Project

CODE GEASS: LELOUCH OF THE REBELLION

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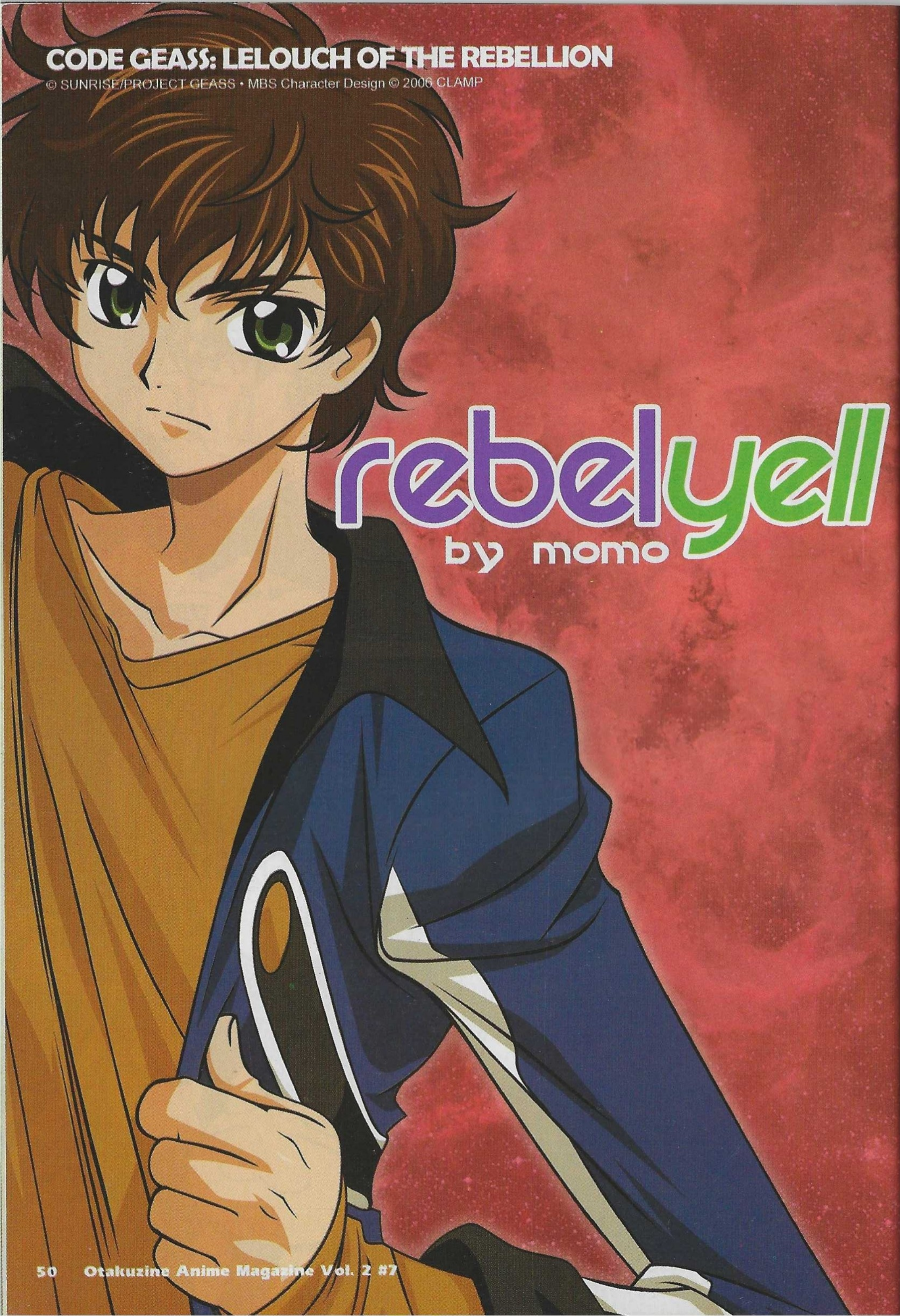


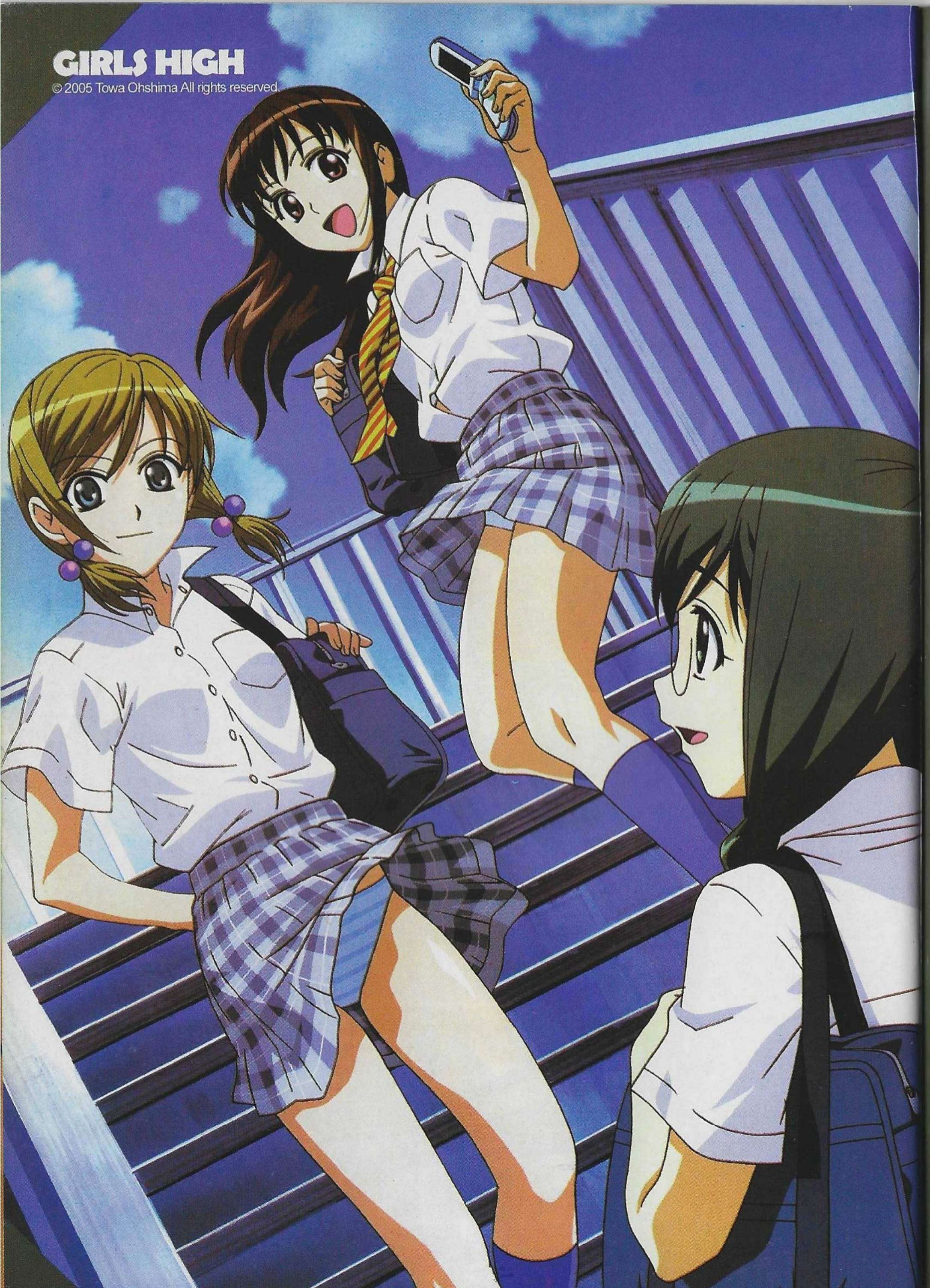
rebelyell

by momo

Like "Gundam Seed" meets "Death Note," only cooler.

In the year 2010, the Britannian empire used its mighty weapons known as "Knightmare Frames" to conquer Japan, renaming it "Area 11," and the Japanese as second-class citizens known as "Elevens." As Britannia cruelly annexed the wreckage that was once Japan, a young boy, Lelouch, swore to his best friend Suzaku that he would one day destroy the Britannian empire. Fast forward to 2017, when a chance encounter with pro-Japanese terrorists lead Lelouch to meet a mysterious green-haired girl. She gives him an unexpected gift, the power of Geass, under the condition that he uses it to "fulfill her wish." With his new power and his unsurpassed strategic intelligence, Lelouch Lamperouge vows to put an end to Britannia – and create a world of peace for his younger sister.

One of the hottest new mecha anime around, Code Geass is on the fast track to becoming an anime masterpiece. The show is fast-paced and highly addictive. Often described as a mix of Gundam and Death Note, Code Geass does feature a deep political story, engaging robot battles, pretty boys and girls, and importantly, a highly intelligent and manipulative anti-hero in Lelouch. The characters are very well done, with every faction acting as a foil for one another. The debate is never one-sided. Would you pick violently taking down the corrupt system, like Lelouch, or sacrificing pride and dignity to attempt to change it from within, like Suzaku? Perhaps we will never know until we are on the battlefield ourselves. The only flaw to this perhaps is that it ends too abruptly – but that is probably because a sequel is already in the works. (It is also interesting to note that the map of the fake empire "Britannia" looks a lot like a completely different Western super-power that is also cracking down heavily on terrorists. Coincidence?) Nonetheless, Code Geass: Lelouch of the Rebellion is a thrilling show that definitely lives up to the hype.



GIRLS HIGH

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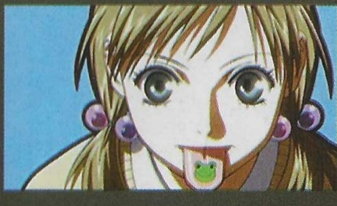
so many panties, so little time

by Momo



Eriko Takahashi and her friends are about to embark on the journey of a lifetime: high school! Happy-go-lucky Eriko is excited to be going to an exclusive all-girls school, where girls are supposedly much neater, cultured, and refined without boys around. Once they get to Yamasaki Girls Academy though, they are in for a big surprise. High school girls, it seems, are much more vulgar then they are made out to be. Girls High follows this raunchy clique through the problems with soirees, the disasters of physical examinations, and everything high school girls must face that do not show up on your usual teen drama.

The first thing you will notice about this show is the staggering amount of fan service everywhere. By the end of its 12-episode run, we have been treated to enough panty flashing, boob jiggling, and scandalous jokes to last a lifetime. "Girls High" is not your typical high-school life anime: the story is mostly based on the real-life experiences of its creator, and it shows. They often deal with crazy, yet true-to-life issues, like how to avoid date rape, deal with perverted voyeurs, and just how to pee in a urinalysis cup. The very up-front take on the cruder side of high school girls is actually what gives "Girls High" its appeal. The frankness is refreshing, and although one may not always appreciate the racier parts, the show is undeniably hilarious. The show is not particularly easy on the eyes and ears though. The animation and art is never anything special, and the background music is rudimentary at best. It is a good thing that the raucous humor more than makes up for its shortcomings in those departments.

When you get right down to it, "Girls High" is a good, although somewhat pervy, show. Guys and girls alike will love this naughty, funny, and utterly honest look at the life of a teenaged girl— minus the occasional bouts of anime insanity, of course.

IKKI TOUSEN: DRAGON DESTINY

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The Fated Battle

by A-chan

Sonsaku Hafuku and the girls (and guys) of Ikkitousen are back to bring you its second season aptly titled Ikkitousen: Dragon Destiny.

The battle of the schools has started again. But around the middle, it was down to three schools that have emerged victorious so far – Seito, Nanyou, and Kyoshou.

Within their world exists a mythical artifact called the Dragon Jade. In the beginning, no one knew about its existence. A mysterious monk talks to Nanyou's Ryomou Shimei and hints about the Dragon Jade to her. Through the course of the series, the potential of this orb is revealed – one is that it has the ability to tame the uncontrollable power of the dragon residing in Nanyou's Hafuku, Seito's Ryuubi, and Kyoshou's Motouku. It may also have the power to change the destiny of a toushi (fighter) and so a wild pursuit for it commenced.

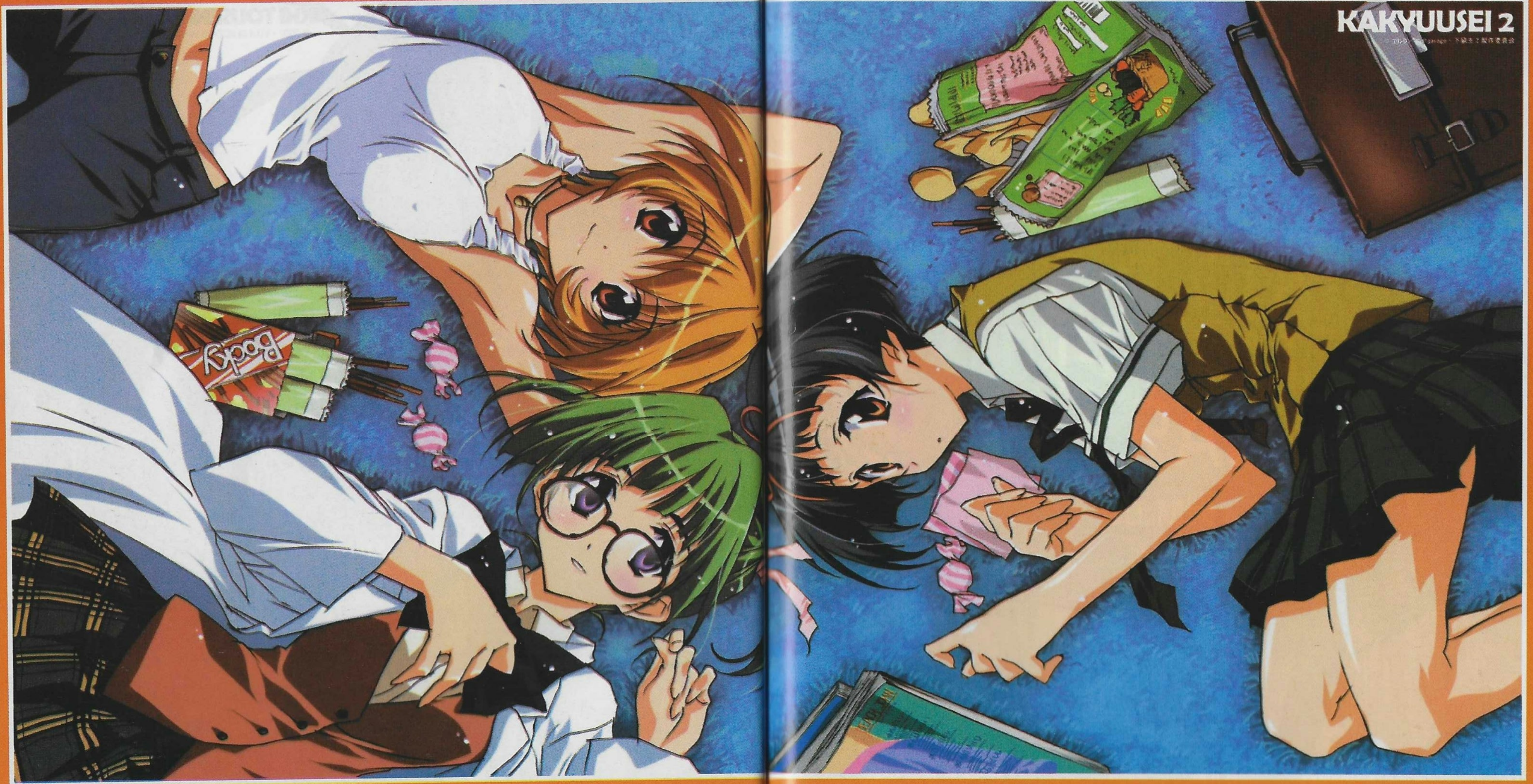
Gradually, more and more things are discovered about the Dragon Jade, which has affected everyone's destinies forever.

One thing that viewers will get by watching Ikkitousen is its generous amount of fan service. Almost all of the girls get their share of ripping school uniforms (or any kind of clothes for that matter) and underwear shots. Another factor about this series is violence and blood (lots of it) whether it's a man or woman shedding it.

Being a short series composed of only 12 episodes, it is understandable that the story will be fast-paced. The good thing about the second season is it suggests a good closure and that the characters, though not all of them, had a happy ending.

However, there are also some unnecessary elements, namely the excessive and rather exaggerated quantity of fan service. It's just realistic that it appears because the girls do a lot of fighting (and they're wearing skirts or dresses in the process) but the rest are too deliberate and are actually pointless.

Story-wise, Ikkitousen: Dragon Destiny is a good educational primer to the classic Chinese story, Romance of the Three Kingdoms. However, it could have been better if there was a good development for each character introduced and also, if the fan service had been minimized.



The Memory Lives On

by A-chan

Déjà vu – a French phrase which means "already seen." It refers to a feeling of experiencing or seeing a situation previously.

A group of girls in a certain school claim that they have fond memories of a mysterious young boy whom they have met when they were still young. No matter how old these girls are, all of them believe that the same young teenage boy has become their first (and most of the time, unrequited) love.

Now in the present timeline of the story, a newly transferred student has made these girls remember their first love again as his appearance has triggered their hazy memories of the forlorn looking boy from their younger years.

This series stemmed from a dating game called Dokyusei (or Classmates) which was released in 1992. Because of its success, it was quickly followed up with Dokyusei 2, Kakyuusei (Lower Classmates) and Kakyuusei 2. All of these had their anime adaptation whether it is an OAV or a TV series.

The animation is quite topnotch. Because of its dating simulation game roots, Kakyuusei 2 boasts of a gallery of visually appealing girls. The theme songs were also satisfactory, the opening called "18" is a bit strange but energetic, nonetheless. The ending is called "Koi No Uta" (Song of Love) and in my opinion, a better song than "18." Both of them were sung by Katyusha.

On the other hand, it also has its share of negative factors like its pacing can be slow and confusing to some. The first episode does not reveal much since it tried its best to establish the mysterious young boy's relation with the girls. There are more scenery views than conversation scenes which can be effective to those who do not appreciate chatty scenes. The succeeding episodes also had its flaws, aside from its slow pace; it also left a lot of questions and what ifs on its viewers, on the other hand, it is perfectly fine that revelations are not given out so easily.

Overall, Kakyuusei 2 actually has a nice and relaxing storyline but the arrangement and pacing may not be irresistible to some.

KAMISAMA KAZOKU

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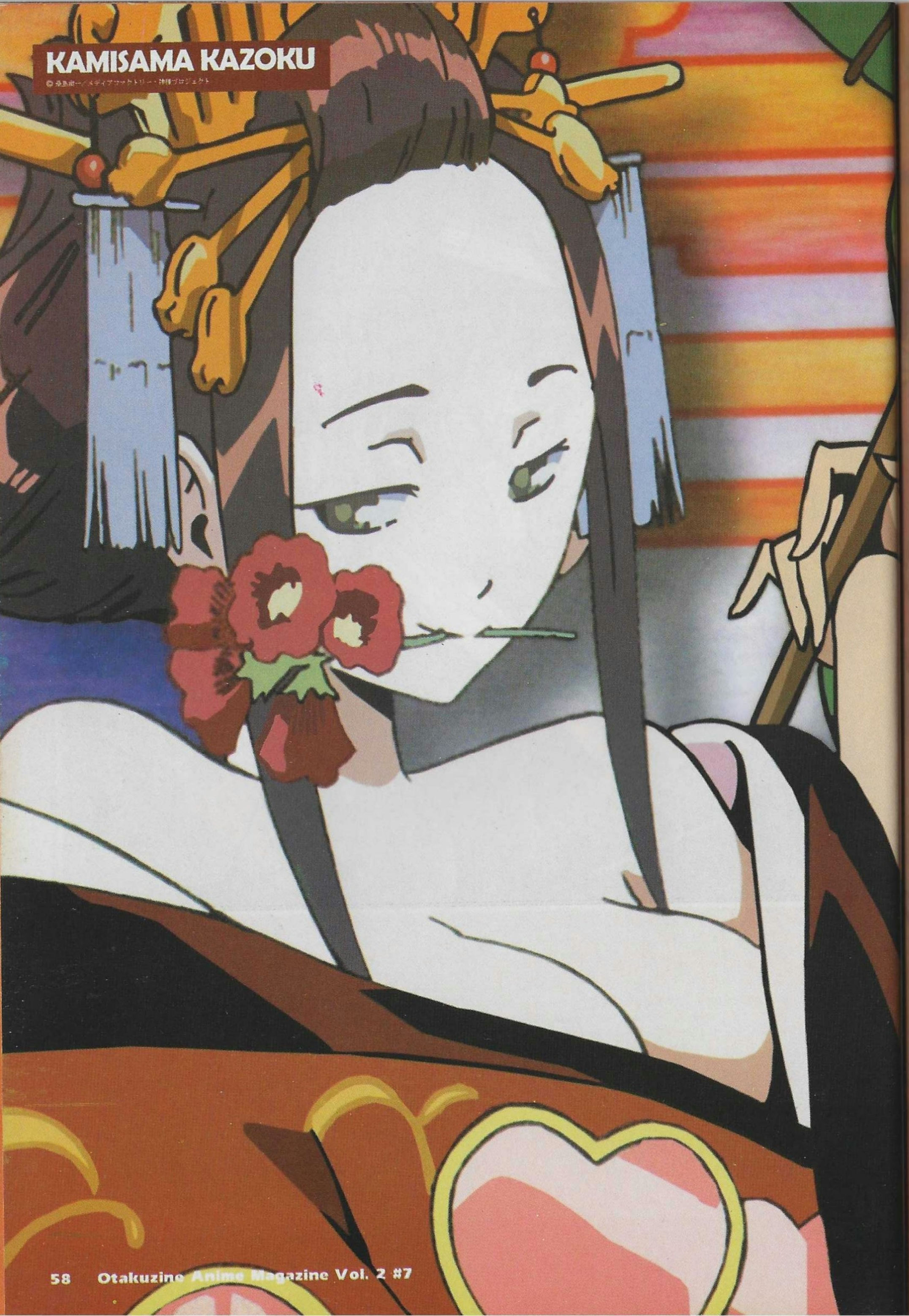


WHEN DID GOD (AND HIS FAMILY) GET SO CRAZY?

by Momo

KAMIYAMA SAMATAROU MAY BE NO JESUS BUT HE CERTAINLY IS THE SON OF GOD! HE AND HIS FAMILY (WHICH INCLUDES HIS GODDESS MOTHER VENUS AND HIS GODDESS-CANDIDATE SISTERS) LIVE IN MODERN DAY JAPAN IN ORDER FOR HIM TO LEARN MORE ABOUT HUMANS UNTIL HE CAN SUCCEED HIS FATHER. ACCOMPANIED BY HIS PERKY GUARDIAN ANGEL TENKO, AND CONTINUALLY SPOILED BY HIS FAMILY'S DIVINE POWERS, SAMATAROU SOON BECOMES BORED OF DAILY LIFE. EVERYTHING CHANGES WHEN A PRETTY NEW GIRL TRANSFERS TO HIS SCHOOL, AND HE DECIDES TO WIN HER HEART ALL ON HIS OWN (MUCH TO THE CHAGRIN OF TENKO, WHO'S HAD A CRUSH ON HIM HER WHOLE LIFE).

THERE ISN'T MUCH TO RECOMMEND ABOUT KAMISAMA KAZOKU. THERE ARE THIRTEEN EPISODES SPREAD OUT INTO 3 MAJOR STORY ARCS. YET THESE ARCS AREN'T WELL CONNECTED WITH EACH OTHER, RESULTING IN A RATHER MESSY WHOLE. IT'S SILLY, WITH JOKES APLENTY --- EXCEPT THAT THE JOKES ARE OFTEN TOO CHARACTER-DRIVEN. THIS WOULD BE OKAY, EXCEPT NONE OF KAMISAMA KAZOKU'S CHARACTERS, FROM SAMATAROU'S BUMBLING AND WELL-MEANING FATHER TO HIS COLD, PRECOCIOUS LITTLE SISTER, ARE UNIQUE OR COMPELLING AT ALL. THE ANIME LIKES TO FOCUS ON THE LOVE TRIANGLE BETWEEN SAMATAROU, TENKO THE CHILDHOOD FRIEND GUARDIAN ANGEL, AND KUMIKO, THE NEW GIRL WITH SECRETS OF HER OWN. YET HAVEN'T WE ALL SEEN THIS SITUATION BEFORE?

APART FROM A FEW SURPRISES, THERE ISN'T MUCH ABOUT KAMISAMA KAZOKU. IT'S FUN WHEN IT'S FUN, BUT IT'S NOTHING REALLY SPECIAL.

©桜野みねね／エニックス・東映アニメーション

Great...
There Goes My House

by A-chan

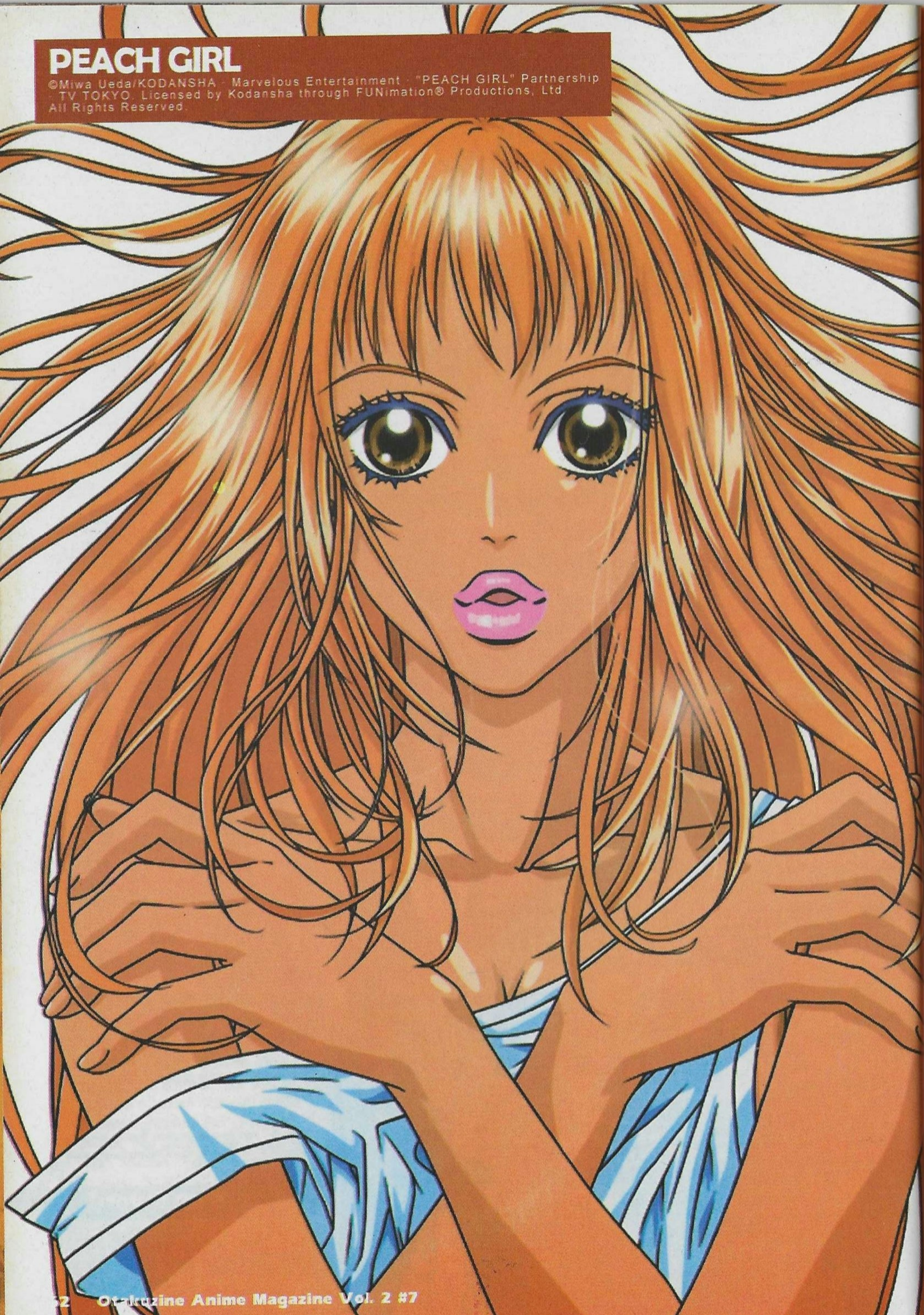
We've got enough share of oh-so-lucky guys. You know, those guys who are such unlikely heroes and not exactly dreamboat material but look at those pretty girls swarming around them. Sometimes, being nerdy or low profile helps. Let's add Shichiri Tasuke in that list, shall we?

Sure, Tasuke is nice and likes to joke around with his buddies but he is not really the kind of guy who would ponder on girls or dating. He is quite satisfied with his solitary lifestyle, away from his family who are all in different parts of the world doing...something. One day, Tasuke receives a package from his dad who is currently working in China. In his letter, he says that he found a nice-looking antique and that he wants to give it to him. Only the pure-hearted may activate the powers of the artifact. And guess what...Tasuke happens to be one of those pure-hearted people. Upon touching the odd ring, Tasuke accidentally summons Shaorin, a shugogetten (somewhat like a guardian angel) who has sworn her loyalty to the poor boy. She is literally by his side in every step of the way making sure that her "master" is always safe from harm. As if that was not enough, Tasuke also had to deal with another guardian by the name of Ruuan who is much more enthusiastic to aid Tasuke.

Hilarity is the name of the game for the 22-episode anime series Mamotte Shugogetten. This show has an abundant serving of explosions and Tasuke's house and school are the frequent victims. The plot is more or less standard and would most likely appeal to people who loved Oh! My Goddess or other titles with boy-magical girl tandem.

Though this series contains a number of predictable scenarios, it still manages to bring out its own style of relaying the situation. What's interesting about this show is that it makes fun of the magical part and exaggerates it so much but at the same time; it also shows the believable sides that emphasize the well-known phrase "reality bites."

If you are looking for a fun and wacky story, then join Tasuke and Shaorin in their series of misadventures in Mamotte Shugogetten.



PEACH GIRL

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FRUITS OF LOVE

BY A-CHAN

Momo likes a boy named Touji. Momo has a friend named Sae. Sae is nice but actually hates Momo. Momo meets Kairi. Kairi knows about Sae's true color. Kairi likes Momo but Touji also likes Momo. Welcome to the high school drama of Peach Girl!

This 25-episode anime is centered on high school student Adachi Momo. Her love for swimming is the cause of her tanned skin and light-colored hair that contrasts her fair-skinned classmates especially her popular friend, Sae. Because of her appearance, the people around her assumed her character to be like the typical ganguro – loud, rebellious, and sexually immoral. It doesn't help that Momo is the type of person who isn't afraid to voice out her opinions. Little does she know, it is actually her friend, Sae who caused such gossip about her.

Right from the beginning, it is shown that Momo has deep admiration for her classmate, Toujigamori Kazuya. She confides with Sae about this but her friend reveals that she heard from somewhere that Touji dislikes girls like Momo. Because of this, Momo instantly gets disappointed for what she is. Her mood got even worse with the introduction of Okayasu Kairi, a good-looking playboy who seems to like Momo. Later, Sae spreads a rumor about Momo and Kairi kissing. This forces Momo to expose her feelings, and Touji overhears this. They confessed their love for each other. But Sae will stop at nothing to make Momo's life miserable.

Created by Ueda Miwa, Peach Girl has spawned a total of 18 manga volumes and also has an ongoing Taiwanese live adaptation. Her story proved to be a success as it is the recipient of the 1999 Kodansha Manga award for shoujo category. It has all the right kind of characters for a good female-targeted drama – an outspoken but wavering heroine, an oblivious handsome man, an easy going guy, and of course, the antagonist – a backstabbing "friend."

With its wacky and sometimes exaggerated twists, Peach Girl will keep its viewers waiting to see who gets defeated and who even-

A JEWEL IN THE PALACE

BY MOMO

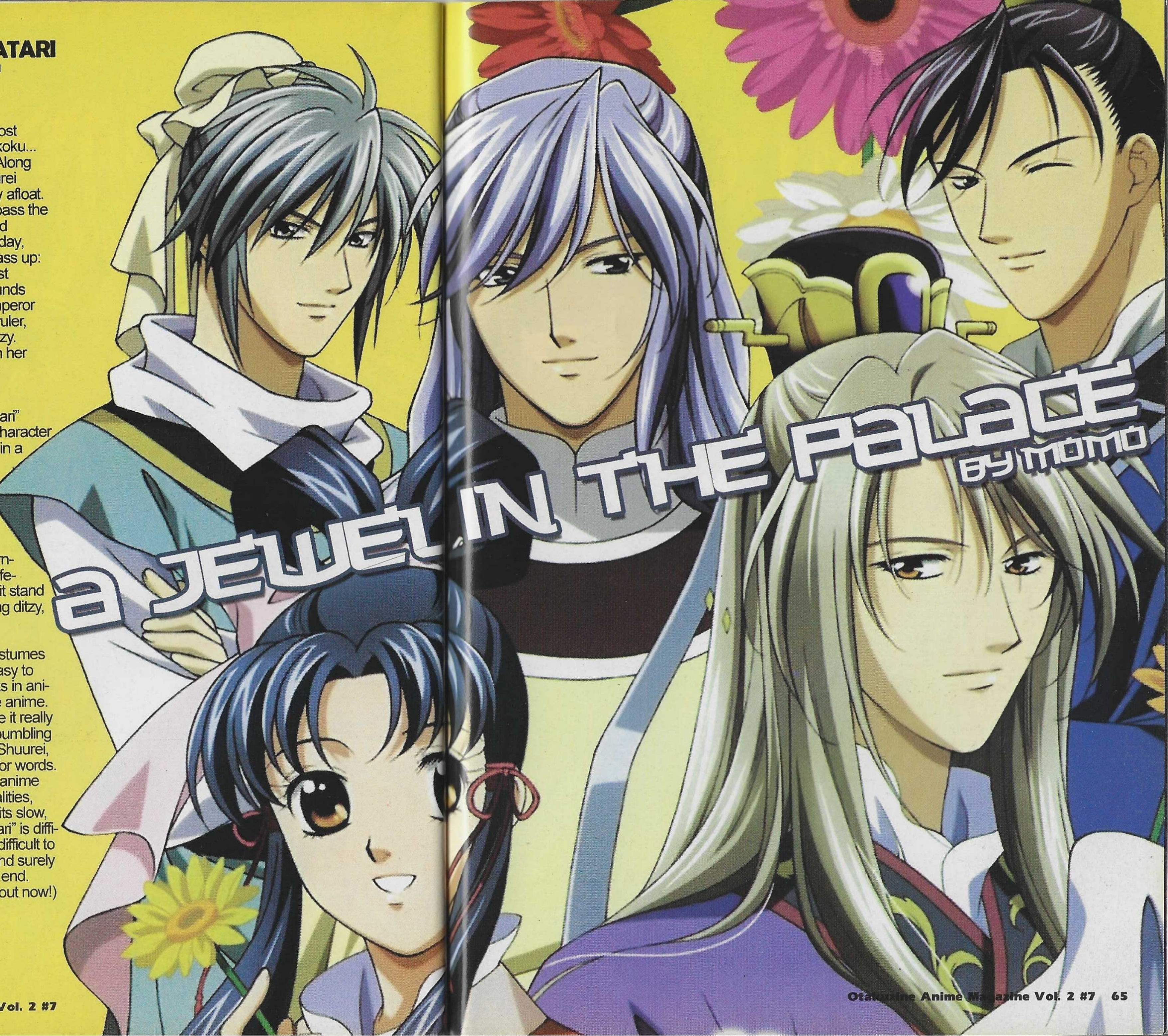
SAIUNKOKU MONOGATARI

© Sai Yukino, Kadokawashoten / NHK, SOGOVISION

Kou Shuurei's family is one of the most highly regarded in the land of Saiunkoku... except they happen to be dirt poor. Along with her family retainer Seiran, Shuurei works on odd jobs to keep the family afloat. Her greatest dream, however, is to pass the male-only Imperial Examinations and become a government official. One day, she's offered a deal that she can't pass up: in exchange for lots of gold, she must become the Emperor's consort! Sounds good, doesn't it? Except that the Emperor happens to be a lazy, irresponsible ruler, and is widely rumored to be boy-crazy. Shuurei has six months to transform her new hubby into a wise and capable emperor! Can she do it?

At first glance, "Saiunkoku Monogatari" looks a lot like "Fushigi Yuugi;" the character designs are similar, and it's also set in a fictional country modeled after ancient China. But while FY's focus is on the journey to summon Suzaku, Saiunkoku's is on the relationships and politics within Saiunkoku, as well as Shuurei's quest to become a part of the government. The story ultimately is one of female empowerment, which makes it stand out amidst every other series starring ditzy, useless heroines.

Visually, it isn't perfect. While the costumes and architecture are beautiful, it's easy to spot the various budget-saving tricks in animation and direction throughout the anime. The characters, however, are where it really shines. The love triangle between bumbling emperor Ryuuki, charming, astute Shuurei, and selfless Seiran is just too cute for words. There are a lot of bishounen in this anime too, which add well-crafted personalities, comic relief, and eye candy. Given its slow, steady pace, "Saiunkoku Monogatari" is difficult to marathon, but is even more difficult to give up! This show is a real gem, and surely a bargain that's quite worth it at the end. (Thank goodness there's a sequel out now!)

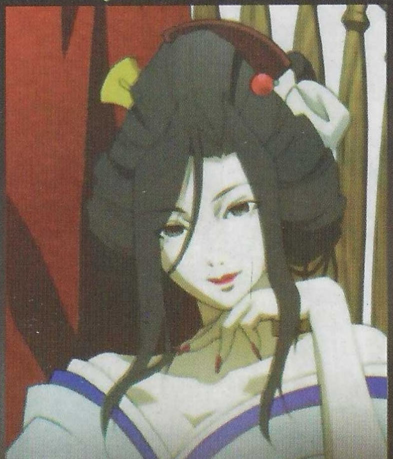


Hell Correspondents

By Light

Hone Onna

Voiced by: Takako Honda



Hone takes on the form of a beautiful woman dressed in kimono with the obi tied in front (the trademark of a prostitute). She becomes a red straw doll whenever the situation calls for it by tossing her red obi strap over her neck. Along with Ren, she researches the people who make a contract and the ones they have a grudge against. She usually infiltrates human society in casual clothing to investigate cases. She uses the pseudonym "Sone Anna."

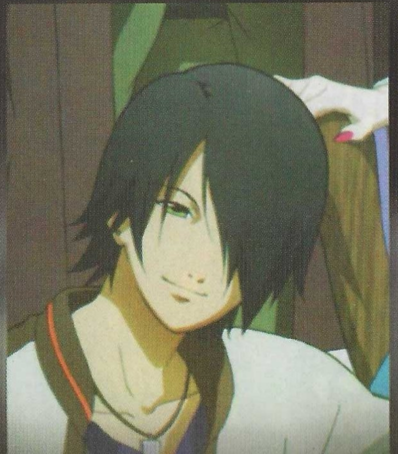
Hone's weapons of choice are throwing knives which she is apparently extremely skilled in. She also seems to have some skill as a contortionist, which allows her to squeeze into very small places. Getting out of those same places, however, is an area she is less talented in. Another one of Hone's special abilities is that she can expose the bones in her body that usually scares the target of the grudge (Hone Onna literally translates into bone woman).

Like Ren, Hone Onna seems to suffer from mild vanity. She can be quite offended when she is addressed as ob -san ('old lady' or 'auntie;' a proper Japanese form of address for any woman of middle age and above).

It was revealed later in the second season that Hone was 200 years old and was formerly a geisha who has been betrayed twice. She later turned into a yokai and was the last person to join Ai.

Ichimoku Ren

Voiced by: Masaya Matsukaze



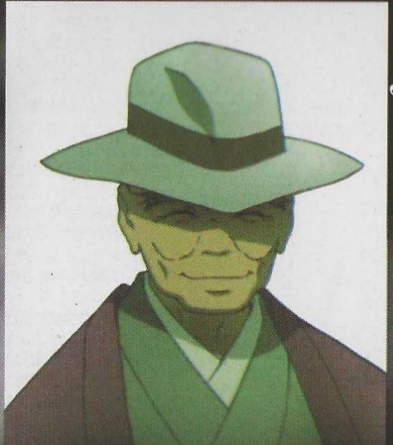
Ren is one of Enma's assistants whose human form is that of a handsome young man (and a stylish one at that). He has the ability to manifest a single, very large eye that can be directed anywhere, allowing him to see the inside of a building through walls. The large eye can also be used as a weapon as it can project intense flashes of light. Whenever circumstances require, Ren turns into a blue straw doll by kissing the pendant that he wears around his neck.

It was later revealed in the series that Ren is actually a tsukumogami -- an artifact which has gained sentence after a long time of existence. In his case, he was once a katana who belonged to a rather blood-hungry samurai who forced him to be aware and watch whatever was done with him. Ai gave Ren his current form(s) after collecting him from an abandoned battlefield. Since then, he grew fond of his human form and is often found displaying considerable vanity from time to time (which explains his incredible fashion sense).

Ai claims she invited Ren to join her because there is something that Ren is looking for. This fact is perhaps manifested in Ren's occasional puzzlement and inability to understand the things humans do and human nature in general. Alternatively, some of Ren's remarks indicate that what he was looking for was actually companionship, something to fill the emptiness of his existence as a sword used for endless killing. Ren has apparently developed feelings for his colleagues, seeing them as family. He was the second being to join Ai's "team."

Wanyuudou

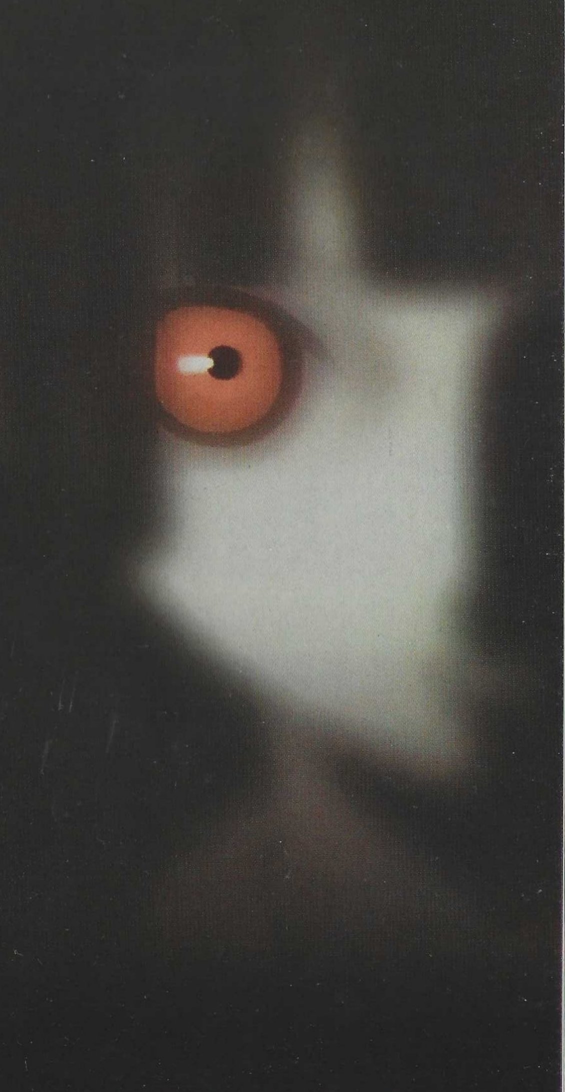
Voiced by: Takayuki Sugo



Wanyuudo becomes a black straw doll whenever the situation calls for it. He also frequently takes the form of Ai's coach with burning wheels when she goes to the human world to claim a soul. Ai has stated that before he performed this task for her, she used to walk to and from her sunset world. The coach incidentally bears the same black flame-crest that appears on the chest of those people who seals a contract with the Hell Girl.

At all other times, Wanyuudou appears as an older man, whose eyes remain mostly shut, wearing a fisherman's hat and fairly old-fashioned Japanese clothing. Despite appearing quite mild-mannered, frail, and weak with age at most times, Wanyuudou possesses considerable skills in martial arts and is capable of hurling fireballs and performing feats of inhuman strength.

His name means "A wheel entering the road" in reference to the flaming wheel form he most commonly assumes. In episode 12 of Futakomori, it is revealed that he was the driver of a princess's entourage, which fell off a cliff. The coach caught fire and all aboard was killed. As a result, he became a yokai that terrorizes people in the form of a flaming wheel with his own enlarged, infuriated face as a hubcap, until he met Ai. She invited him to join her as her first companion. Ai revealed to Wanyuudou his ability to shape-shift.



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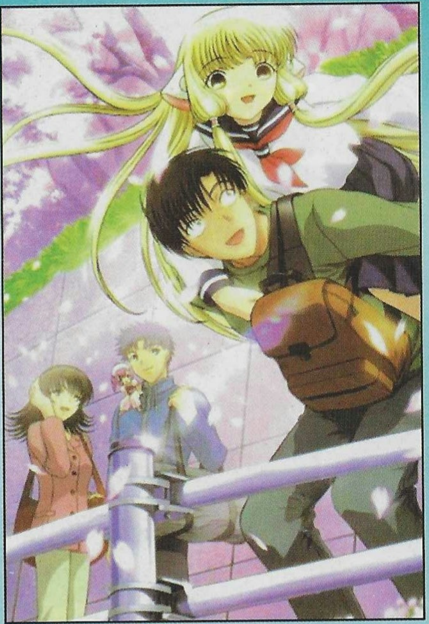

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Let Me Be With You
Chobits Opening Theme
Submitted By: John Edward Paz

Futari ga kitto deaeruyouna mahou wo kakete
Ryoute wo sotto kasanetehora hohoemukara

Honto no kimochi kitsukanai furishite
Totsuzen futari koi ni ochitano
Let Me Be With You
Let Me Be With You
Let Me Be With You
Dakishimetaino

Imamade zutto ienaimama kakushitetano
Tsuyogatteru soredakenano mitsukedashite

Machiawasemade atogofun mattete
Sonoatofutari koi ni ochitano
Let Me Be With You
Let Me Be With You
Let Me Be With You
Nakitakunaruno

Tsunaidate wo sotto hanasutoki
Fuan ni naruno Fuan ni naruno
Let Me Be With You
Let Me Be With You
Let Me Be With You
Dakishimetainoni
Dakishimetainoni

We are now accepting lyrics submission from you, our beloved readers for our Lyrics Section. Please send your transcribed lyrics to lyrics@otakuzine-mag.com. We will publish one song every month. The person whose lyrics will be published will be given due credit.So send in those lyrics now!

Yuzurenai Negai
Magic Knight Rayearth Opening Theme
Submitted By: Ibn Barra

Tomaranai mirai wo mezashite
Yuzurenai negai wo dakishimete

Umi no iro ga agaku somatte yuku
Mujyuuuryoku joutai
Kono mama kaze ni sarawaretai

Itsumo tobenai hadoru wo
Makenai kimochi de
Kuriashite kita kedo
Dashikirenai jutsuryoku wa
Dare no sei?

Tomaranai mirai wo mezashite
Yuzurenai negai wo dakishimete
Iroasenai kokoro no chizu
Hikari ni kaza sou

Dore dake nakeba asa niteaeru no?
Kodoku na yoru
Hajimete genkai wo kanjta hi

Kitto koi ni ochiru no wa
Mabataki mitai na
Isshun no jounetsu dakedo
Ai ni tsudzuku sakamichi de
Tsuyosa oboetai

Tomaranai mirai wo yume mite
Michi wo tozashi hitomi wo hikarasete kitta keredo
Motto ooki na
Yasashisa ga mieta

Tobenai hadoru wo
Makenai kimochi de
Kuria shite kita kedo
Suta to rain ni tatsu tabi ni
Obiete ita

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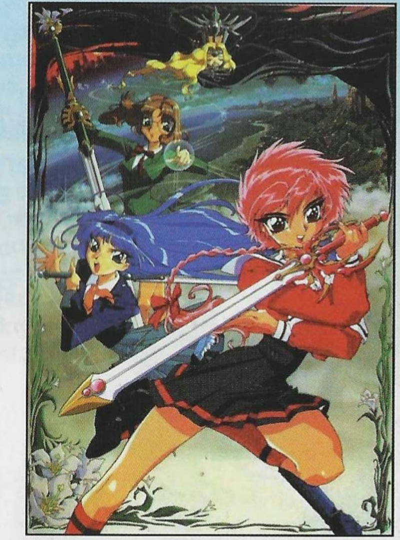


Who is Lan?

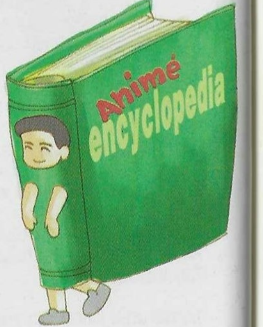
Jan Ray Perez

Birthday: November 6, 1984

Age: 23

In our previous issue we featured Jayson a.k.a Honou the nurse, now we will be featuring Jan Ray "Lan" Perez. He is a med-tech graduate and a soon-to-be doctor.

LAN MEDTECH



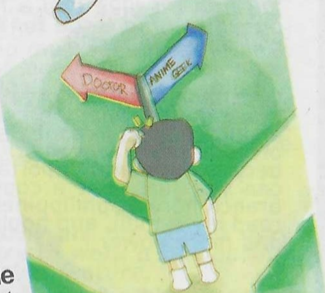
There aren't many known personal facts about him since he is a person who can be considered similar to a hermit crab. Despite his busy schedule, Lan still finds time to watch anime and even memorize almost every anime title that is available today. In our group we call him the walking anime encyclopedia.

ANIME STUFFS

Many of you may wonder how a med tech and soon-to-be doctor got inside the best anime magazine in the country, well for those of you who are curious, it happened two years ago when Dennis, Bryan, Mark, and Jayson were looking for anime stuffs then one particular toy suddenly caught our attention. We were guessing what anime title it was from when suddenly a tornado-like presence appeared in front of us to explain every detail of that certain toy. Then when we were about to leave the place, we heard a scream from the tornado-like presence saying "AHAAAAAAAA!" We stopped on our tracks and turned back to Lan when he said, "I wasn't wrong! It's you! You are the famous Dennis!" And then suddenly, Lan dropped on his knees begging, "please let me join you guys."

Mark whispered to Jayson then Jayson whispered to Bryan and Bryan whispered to Dennis saying, "sige na nga kawawa naman itong OTAKU na ito!" With a big smile, Lan suddenly got up on his knees and shouted, "YATTAAAAAA!" And that is how our Jan Ray "Lan" Perez started to become an Ozine staff.

FAQs



There was this time when Lan had reached the point wherein he was choosing whether he wanted to continue his medical career to become an anime bum.

Besides anime, Lan is also a gamer who loves playing RPG. One time while playing Naruto on Nintendo Wii, he got sucked up and became the 5th Hokage of Konoha.

He is also a cosplayer. He once cosplayed as Yoji of Weiß Kreuz and everyone who saw him lost consciousness because of his charm He even surpassed our very own Mark dela Fuente who is capable of making any girl faint with just a wink or a smile.

NEXT ISSUE, WATCH OUT FOR bob_newbie'S PROFILE!

OHAYO GOZAIMASU! ^-^ mga sanpai's in Otakuzine.. ok lng ba?hehe I really want to thank you for making otakuzine.This mag. means a lot to me.Its just that whenever i'm lonely or upset,i'll just grab my otaku's and start reading it(blah..blah..blah..)then my moods lighten up and im fueled up again ready to fight TOSHI!. And i'm willing to starved just to buy otakuzine...hmn..now whats good about it?I even lost weight(GOOD NEWS EH?)^-^.Super tipiran talaga ito,sabi nga nang mga kaibigan ko kuriput ko na raw.hehe.its worth it naman kasi..All your featured anime are cool.Ang daming mga info's tungkol sa mga anime.Lalo na ang mga sneak peak section ninyo at seikuko on focus.Ang galing talaga.^-^

Ang ganda nga nang pagfeature ninyo sa tsubasa chronicles sa no.12 issue mga senpai's.nagkabati tuloy kami nang bestfriend ko.hehe.sana po e feature nyo rin ang kanon at kamisama kazuko....Medyo nakakalungkot lang na wala ang fairy seeker pero enjoy din naman ang mga games eh..maghihintay pa rin kami sa fairy seekers. Me and my friends in cagayan de oro will always support this mag till the end.TOSHI! TOSHI! TOSHI! Otakuzine.

P.S.
hello kay li shouran senpai,napansin kasi namin wala sayang featured anime sa issue 14.Konnichiwa sa iyo!

- Keith Irfan"nami no tenshi" or "tenshi" Palasan

Thanks for the support. Tell you what, look for me on our upcoming Ozine Fest '08 and I'll give you a free issue. Well sad to say Fairy Seeker won't be back in our upcoming issue for the mean time. But we have a new manga and I hope you will also support it.

Greatings to all editors and staffs of otakuzine!!!!
first i want to thank otakuzine because otakuzine mag is really a big joy and grace to an anime adict like me. iam really an anime adict. thats why i always read a new issue of your otakuzine mag. but im sad to say that ive miss your otakuzine issue #7 because of some important matters. i just want to ask were can i buy that issue. or can you just sent a copy here at any branch of national bookstore or comic alley branch here at philippines specifying at cavite or even at manila. hoping that you will read my e-mail, and hoping that you can help me to find otakuzine issue #7 god bless and more power

ps.
can you add a topic of prince of tennis and groove adventures of rave to your next issue of otakuzine mag.

Fei

We read your email. Yay! Try going to Toy Kingdom Megamall or if you can't really find any, go find Jason/Honou on our upcoming Ozine Fest '08 he'll give you one.

hi to all the staff ng otakuzine!!gusto ko po sanang magrequest SANA ng issue ng cosplay,otakuzinemangazine,at student planner dito po sa fairvew sa SM.yung ish po ng mangazine 1st lang ang meron sana po may next ish po d2.ok lang sa akin mauubos ang baon ko kung ang kapalit naman ang ngiti sa labi ko.....sobrang tipiran to!

P.S
pinapabati ng sis ko si KRNO kasi ang saya niyang malaman na favorite di nito si chrno...>_<

Chirstine Montano

Hi Christine. Tell your sister Krno said Hi. Krno will give you the Cosplay Mag, Otaku Mangazine and Student Planner of Linka and Rhaine.

Hello po sa lahat ng staff ng otakuzine mag!! heheheeh... ako nga po pala c bianca pollo ng Las Piñas city..>>heheeh... haha! Ang ganda po tlaga ng magazine nyo., punong puno ng info's! hahahh!! Sayang nga lang po hindi ko naabutan yung issue 1-7 ..late ko na po kasing nlamn na mag palang pang anime! ^^,'..heheheh... sana po pwede pang ilabas ulit ung mga dating issue pero heheh.. impossible.. aheheh.. ayun po.., ang cute tlga po ng mag nyo., pwede po mag request kung pwede po., i feature nyo namn po yung Mermaid Melody Pichi Pichi Pitch! heheheh.. cute din po yung anime na yun eh.. heheh.., idol ko po dun c Hannon.. heheheheh... la lang.. ayun po..

Good luck po sa inyo and God bLess!!..
Sana po mag tagal pa kayo...
I SUPPORT YOU guys!! hahah!! You Rock!!

Bianca Pollo

Hello Bianca. We have a feature on Mermaid Melody Pichi Pichi on our upcoming issue so watch for it. Issue 1 to 7? Try going to www.psicompublishing.com.

Hi there otakuzine! and to all otakuzine staffs,konnichiwa!how are you doing? i hope everyone's okay. i would like to give you a huge thanks for making this kind of mag, an anime mag that surely,every anime fan would love. every page of it has magic. it brings us happiness and excitement. i thank you for that. you totally rock! you are very amazing! otakuzine is so cool! from the beginning,i've shown you my full support by collecting your mag from its very first issue,until now,until the end,hope otakuzine never fade... :) guys,i really really love you,all of you. you complete me. with all my heart,i want to thank you. otakuzine cheers me up,i tell you. i really really love anime. i am addicted to it. anime gives me joy. even people around me call me "anime addict" and "the teacher of anime"... i had the manner of reading your mag from cover to cover. everything is so great. you did a great job. i really appreciate all the efforts you have been putting into this awesome mag. by the way,i am very glad that linka and the company are back! fairy seeker is so fantastic! i waited so long and now,they are here. so wonderful! pls forgive me for my long message. i just want to express how much i like you. but,i know,words are not enough ,so,i am here, supporting you guys! i'll be by your side for eternity! :) may i request you to put a month on the cover on your every issue? may 2007,like that? so that,we,otakus and everyone will know when a certain issue is being published...pls,pls,pls? it'll be a lot of help,i swear. pls and thank you... :) domo arigato. more power to you all and hope otakuzine remains forever. i love otakuzine! luv yah! mwah! :)

Janella Domingo

Thank you for the support. Sad to say Linka and Company are going to a very long vacation. About the cover feature in advance will try to work it out but for now, after this issue we will be having Clannad as our cover feature.

Hiya! i was really excited to send this letter so i hope it appears in your mag. if not, then that's fine, you can just reply to me via email. anyway, i am hoping and praying that you will have a special issue about CLAMP, the creators of cardcaptor sakura. my barkada and i are huge fans! i showed my friend the tsubasa poster from your mag, and she loved it. i think i made her jealous, hee hee. my favorite CLAMP works are cardcaptor sakura, tsubasa reservoir chronicle and xxxHolic. i am also suggesting this because i want to know more about their other works.

P.S. I loved your article about sakura and syaoran. (april '07) SO SWEET!!!

cutee_igor

Yehey! Your letter appeared in our issue. Will try to feature your request. That's it for now. Thank you for sending your letters. Till next month.

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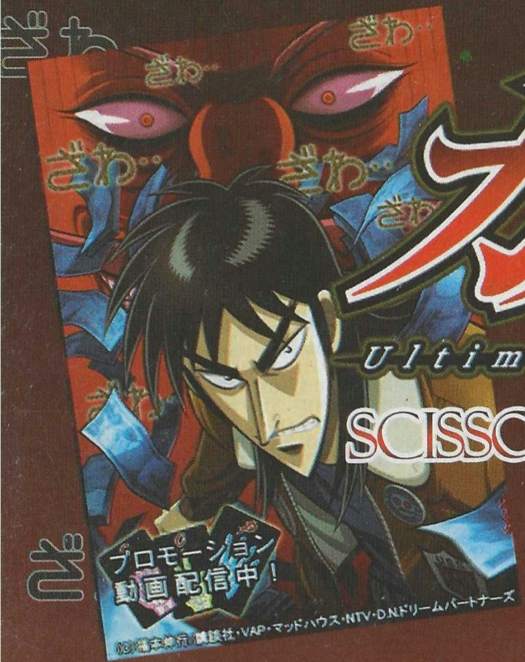
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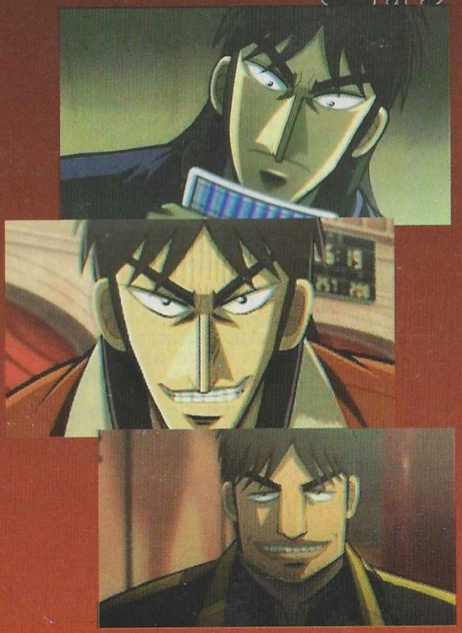
SCISSOR, PAPER, STONE!

BY FLUFFYSNOB



Who would think it's no more than a child's play? Not in Kaiji, the most popular manga by Nobuyuki Fukimoto. The anime series just came out this October.

The story is about Itou Kaiji, who set himself out to Tokyo, hoping for a better life, but turned into no more than a cheap gambling bum. His adventure started when a guy named Endo paid him a visit and informed Kaiji about his "debt." Well, it became his debt when a former co-worker Furuhata asked him to co-sign a loan with him and eventually failed to pay back.

Fearing that it would take him decades to pay Furuhata's debt back, he was left with no choice but to risk gambling in the cruise ship Espoir – where the winners will take home a lumpy sum to at least pay their debts, and the losers were made to pay for their weakness.

Join Kaiji as he plays the restricted Rock, Paper, Scissors with the most cunning gamblers in his cruise of a lifetime.

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